Long Path <u>Protection Plan</u>



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference plan to protect the Long Path, extending 400+ miles between New York City and the Adirondack Park.







The Long Path is maintained by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in conjunction with multiple park partners and maintaining clubs in New York and New Jersey.

The Long Path Protection Plan was supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.



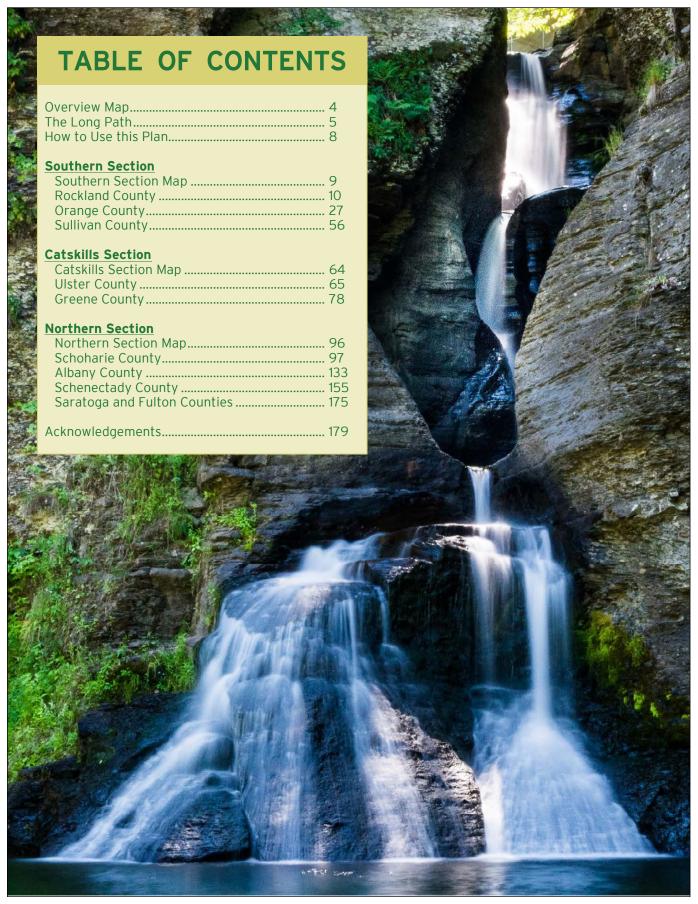
The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has partnered with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of over 2,100 miles of public trails in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. The Trail Conference organizes volunteer service projects that keep these trails open, safe, and enjoyable for the public. We publish maps and books that guide public use of these trails. The Trail Conference is a nonprofit organization with a membership of 10,000 individuals and 100 clubs that have a combined membership of over 100,000 active, outdoor-loving people.

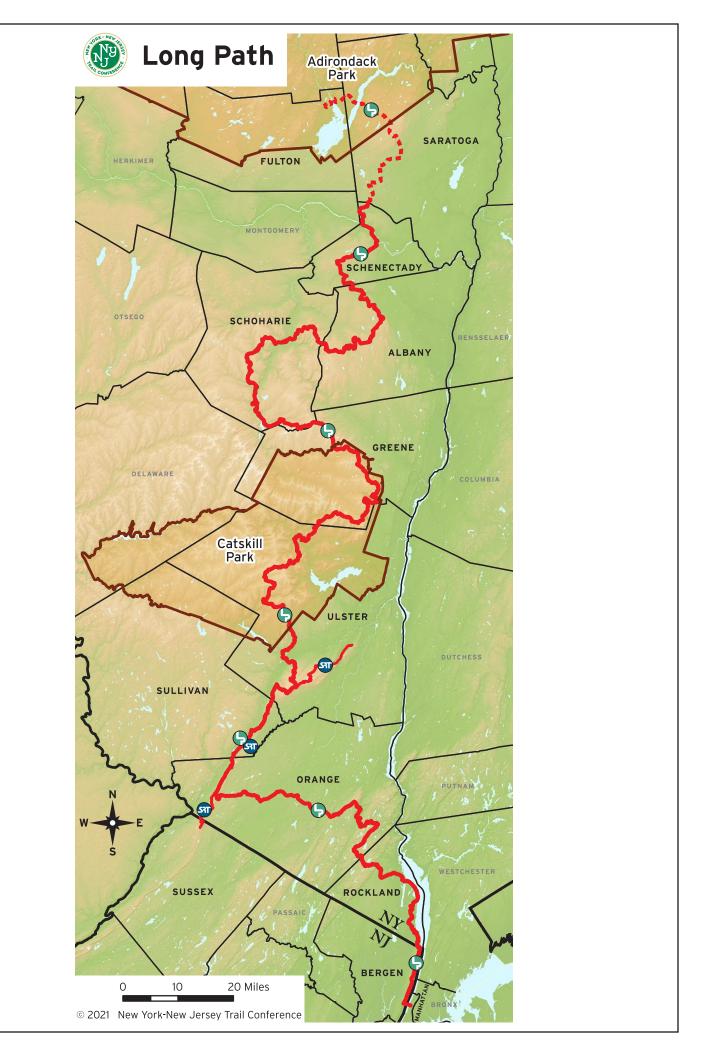


The Land Trust Alliance is a national nonprofit conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,000 member land trusts and their 4.6 million supporters nationwide. As the voice of the land trust community, the Land Trust Alliance is the national leader in policy, standards and education.



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created in 1970 to combine all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment into a single agency. DEC's mission is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.





The Long Path

The **Long Path (LP)** is a trail that extends nearly 360 miles as a completed trail from near the 175th Street Subway Station in New York City to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany, New York, the current official terminus. The trail continues northward with blazed roadwalks and some off-road sections to the Mohawk River, and then a mostly unblazed roadwalk to reach Northville in the Adirondack Park for a total Long Path length of more than 425 miles; there are ongoing efforts to move more of these sections off the roads. The aqua-blazed Long Path traverses many scenic and historic regions of varied geologic setting on the west side of the Hudson River, including the Palisades, Harriman State Park, the Shawangunk Ridge, the Catskills, and the Helderberg Escarpment.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has been championing the Long Path for decades, with more aggressive protection work beginning in the late-1990s and early-2000s. Efforts have largely been piecemeal, with progress made slowly but surely to close or narrow gaps in protected lands. Assembling a 400+-mile-long trail corridor is a labor-intensive, multi-decade campaign that largely does not fit the missions of most other land conservation organizations, so the experiences and many small achievements has led to the Trail Conference acquiring institutional knowledge of how to create minimalist linear corridors where necessary and state forest-sized corridors where possible.



The Trail Conference has learned that providing a vision and a plan for trail corridor protection can be an extremely useful resource. This Long Path Protection Plan (LPPP), with detailed maps and descriptive priority parcel protection narratives, will serve as a roadmap for partnerships and engagements. The Trail Conference already works with many great partners at all levels of involvement, but this LPPP will advance shared missions and open space goals and ultimately help expedite the goal of creating a protected Long Path corridor from New York City to the Adirondacks.

The following testimonial from Kylie Yang, Long Path End-to-Ender #190 and former Trail Conference NY Program Coordinator, encapsulates the importance of protecting the Long Path:

The Long Path is a truly unique and beautiful trail. After joining the Trail Conference in 2020, I decided to section hike the Long Path over a few months. While I had experience with long-distance hiking on the Appalachian Trail, I was shocked at the swiftly changing scenery the Long Path provided. Winding through Palisades Interstate Park, over cliffs in Minnewaska, with sweeping views throughout the Catskills and views of Albany from John Boyd Thatcher State Park, I cannot think of another trail that encompasses so many diverse parks in so few miles. Walking through small communities I would've otherwise not seen, and being greeted by livestock on road walks was a truly unique experience. The trail was often remote, but it was always marked and maintained well. While I regularly went several days without seeing other hikers, I was grateful for the rugged, beautiful, and often solitary experience that many other long-distance trails cannot provide. The Long Path is a true gem, and deserves protection to ensure it lasts for generations of hikers to come!

History of the Long Path:

In 1931, Vincent J. Schaefer of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club put forth an idea for "New York's Long Path." Unlike other trails, the Long Path was to be a path without any clearing or marking, where one would just wander using a compass and maps to reach pre-determined destinations, which he labeled as points. This trailless path had a predetermined starting point of "Towers of the George Washington Bridge" and an ending point of "Whiteface Mountain."

With the help of W. W. Cady, he took this one step further to scout the complete route. On March 27, 1934, Raymond Torrey began to print a section of the Long Path every Tuesday in his article "The Long Brown Path." This was done every Tuesday through August 26, 1935. There were soon some efforts to create a marked trail, including by Alexander Jessup who marked the trail into the Catskills by 1943, but the timing of World War II led to the idea soon fading away.

In 1960, Robert Jessen and Michael Warren revived the idea as a cleared, marked and maintained path. By this time both housing developments and private property postings prevented a hiker from wandering wherever they wanted. Without a planned route or permission from private landowners, an off-road bush whacking route would have been difficult to achieve. Through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s the Trail Conference worked to refine the path and protect it through advocacy efforts. In the 1990s, the Trail Conference began to get more aggressive with moving the Long Path off roads while also extending the Long Path north into Schoharie and Albany counties. The Trail Conference also began to purchase properties to protect the Long Path.

By the turn of the century, the Trail Conference was aggressively working to protect the Long Path north of the Catskill Park. Here the Trail Conference's 30-year effort has permanently protected 14.3 miles of the Long Path with the protection of more than 1,000 acres, which was instrumental in the creation of Mount Hayden State Forest. By 2000, the Trail Conference also began to aggressively preserve the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) from High Point State Park in New Jersey to Sam's Point Preserve, now part of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. This mammoth effort required assistance from numerous partner organizations and buy in from New York State. Over the last 30 years, Trail Conference efforts have helped protect more than 4,000 acres along the southern Shawangunk Ridge to help create a protected corridor for the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. In 2012, the Long Path route through Orange County was significantly moved to align it with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail for nearly 36 miles, from the Town of Greenville in Orange County northward to Sam's Point.

Land Protection Steps:

The strategy used by the Trail Conference in planning and pursuing protected corridors has largely consisted of the following steps:

1. Identify corridor priority parcels

These are parcels that protect critical areas, parcels that connect to other protect lands, parcels that provide a protected land buffer, or parcels that could provide additional trail opportunities. These parcels are largely identified through a combination of on-the-ground assessment, GIS mapping, and county/municipal tax maps.

2. Identify which parcels may be feasible to protect

o The Trail Conference and its partners may attempt to identify which parcels may actually be feasible for protecting with some form of protection, starting with landowner agreements and progressing to trail or conservation easements and outright acquisition. This process can involve establishing relationships and lines of communication with landowners, negotiating potential costs of the land, and working with park partners to understand whether potential acquired lands would ultimately be transferred.

3. Work to complete the protection

Once a parcel is considered feasible for protection, the Trail Conference and its partners work to line up everything needed to complete the protection. For an acquisition, this process can involve working with the landowner to finalize a purchase price and other terms, obtaining funds needed to acquire the parcel, and conducting surveys and performing legal reviews and title searches. These steps eventually lead to a closing date, when the land is transferred to the Trail Conference or other land trust partner and becomes protected!

4. If land is acquired, transfer the acquisition to New York State or another partner

The Trail Conference is not a land trust, so we prefer to not hold on to protected land and instead transfer it to either New York State or a land trust partner. The timeframe for when a transfer occurs depends on several variables, including the parcel's significance and priority in comparison with potential acquisitions statewide, as well as the amount of funding New York State or other land trust partners has available to purchase these lands.

The situations surrounding any particular parcel vary greatly, such that the timeframe between the first step and last step can involve only 1-2 years of work, or require 10-20 years of persistence!

Conservation Corridor Protection:

The Long Path Protection Plan aims to link conservation and recreation goals by preserving land adjacent to the Long Path to contribute to interconnected conservation corridors that support habitat connectivity and combat landscape degradation. The strategic protections outlined in the Long Path Protection Plan aim to create a fully protected corridor that would benefit recreational and environmental resources from New York City to the Adirondack Park.

The protection of ecological corridors is a strategy that land managers, planners, and interest groups utilize to reduce habitat fragmentation and degradation. Anthropogenic disturbances such as urbanization and development disrupt wildlife interactions and movement, resulting in a decline of biodiversity in developed areas. Clearing of native vegetation creates patches or islands of habitats, isolating plants and animals and interrupting ecological processes like migration, dispersal, pollination, and mating.

Ecological or conservation corridors link vegetated areas and water bodies, enabling habitat connectivity that allows plants and animals to migrate and disperse in the face of changing seasons, degraded ecosystems, and changing climate. Wildlife moves daily and seasonally to reach food, water, shelter, and breeding sites and are more frequently relying on corridors to locate their needs. A study in Tensas River Basin, Louisiana found that bears moved more regularly through wooded patches connected by corridors than wooded areas fragmented by agricultural land, indicating corridors supported the idea that habitat connectivity is necessary to sustain black bear population (USDA 1999). Additionally, Aziz & Rasidi (2014) found that greater species richness is likely in wider corridors with more forest.

In addition to habitat connectivity to wildlife, corridors play a substantial role in improving watershed conditions by reducing the impact of agricultural runoff into riparian zones, decreasing erosion and flooding, and improving water and air quality (USDA 1999; Lynch 2019).

Investment in corridor protection adjacent to recreational trail systems offers an opportunity to promote ecological conservation that is compatible with human activity. There is a growing body of research that indicates physical and psychological human health benefit from the presence of biodiversity and natural landscapes (Russell et al. 2013; Seymour 2016; Frumkin et al. 2017). Therefore, by integrating regional trail networks with ecological corridors, the Long Path will serve as a multipurpose corridor that protects functioning ecosystems and promotes human health.

References:

Aziz, H. A., & Rasidi, M. H. (2014). The role of green corridors for wildlife conservation in urban landscape: A literature review. In IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science (Vol. 18, No. 1, p. 012093). IOP Publishing.

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Rinaldo, A., Gatto, M., & Rodriguez-Iturbe, I.. (2018). River networks as ecological corridors: A coherent ecohydrological perspective. Advances in Water Resources, 112, 27-58. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2017.10.005

Russell R, Guerry AD, Balvanera P, Gould RK, Basurto X, Chan KMA, et al. (2013). Humans and nature: how knowing and experiencing nature affect well-being. Annu Rev Environ Resour 38:473-502 Seymour V. (2016). The human-nature relationship and its impact on health: A criti-cal review. Front Public Health 4:260

USDA. (1999). Conservation Corridor Planning at the Landscape Level. Chapter 4: Corridor Benefits. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C33&as_vis=1&q=Corridor+Benefits+USDA&btnG=

How to Use this Plan

This Long Path Protection Plan examines individual Project Areas that are largely focused on unprotected property between already-protected lands. These Project Areas are organized by county, starting in Rockland County at the New York/New Jersey state border and proceeding northward toward Adirondack Park. The initial section in New Jersey is not included here because once the Long Path crosses the George Washington Bridge, it is routed entirely through protected Palisades Interstate Park land in New Jersey with one small exception that occurs as the Long Path crisscrosses the border at Rockland County.

The counties are grouped into the following sections, with an overview section map proceeding each section in the Plan:

- Southern Section: Rockland, Orange, Sullivan
- Catskills Section: Ulster, Greene
- Northern Section: Schoharie, Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Fulton

The first eight counties are structured in the following way:

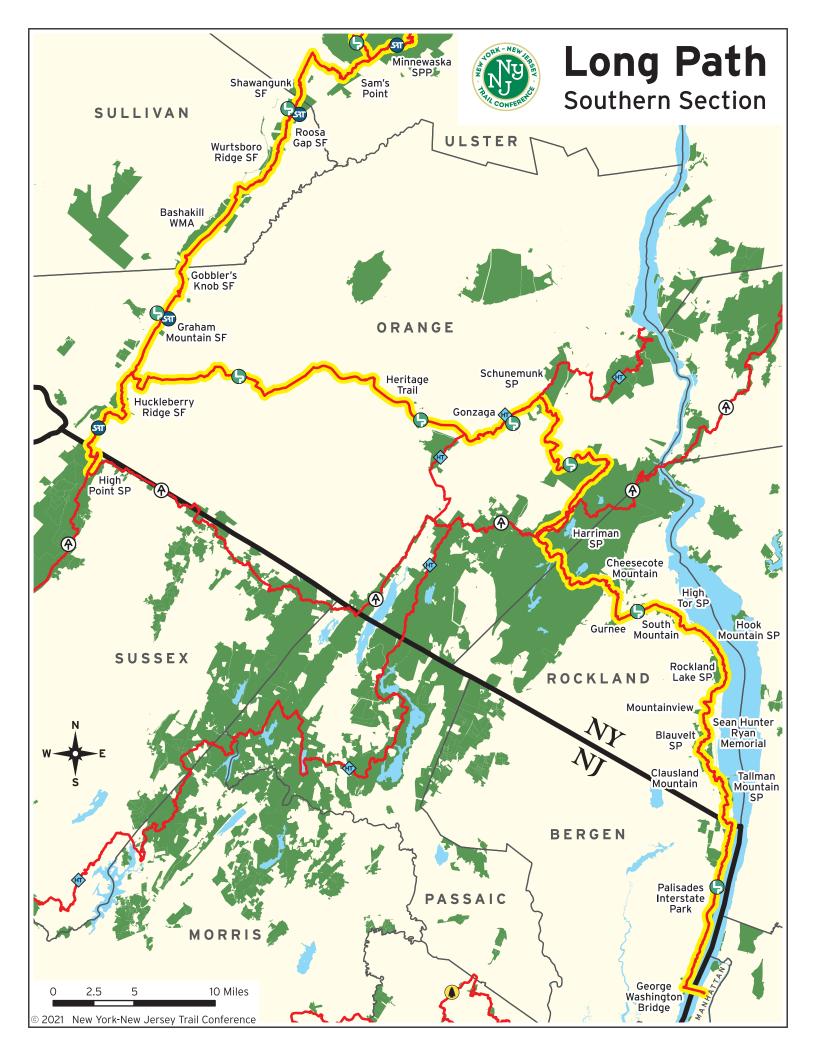
- Overview and History of the Long Path in that county
- County Map showing the route of the Long Path and specific project area locations
- Project Area Descriptions and Action Items
- **Project Area Parcel Lists** of protection priority parcels within the desired corridor
- **Project Area Maps** showing protected lands and preferred Long Path routes

The northernmost counties of Saratoga and Fulton are represented by descriptions of potential routes and rough maps of these routes, but they do not yet include specific Project Areas. The section for Orange County also includes information and project areas for the related Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

While this Long Path Protection Plan is designed to show all the priority areas along the trail, each section and county can also be looked at individually. The hope is that this plan will assist interested Long Path stakeholders in engaging in actions to preserve and protect the Long Path in any given Project Area or County.

Each Project Area Map includes a legend showing the manager level of protected lands (i.e., state, county, municipal, land trust). Note that orange-shaded Corridor Priority Parcels are parcels for which some form of protection should be secured, so that could include direct acquisition as well as other easements or agreements that could provide protection for the corridor.

County	Number of Project Areas	Number of Priority Parcels
Rockland	6	31
Orange	9	96
Sullivan	2	9
Ulster	4	18
Greene	6	33
Schoharie	13	79
Albany	7	46
Schenectady	6	64
Saratoga	Work is underway to further develop a potential protected	
Fulton	corridor through these two counties.	
TOTAL	54 376	





Protection Overview:

There are 6 Project Areas within Rockland County. Protecting a corridor in each of these areas would completely protect the Long Path in Rockland County, which runs **35.5 miles** through the county.

- After leaving Bergen County, New Jersey, the Long Path continues within the Palisades Interstate Park, as it has been for the last 12 miles since leaving the George Washington Bridge.
- The Long Path then enters **Project Area 1** onto land owned by Columbia University, briefly dips down into New Jersey, and then guickly returns to New York State. It continues through Columbia University land and extends to US Route 9W before following that road a short distance to Tallman Mountain State Park.
- Recently, the Bergson family donated 4.2 acres to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. With this donation in place, the trail will be moved off a dangerous section of Route 9W and through this parcel, which connects directly with Tallman Mountain State Park.
- The Long Path then passes through the Piermont area, where it remains unprotected across a few different properties in Project Area 2. The trail then passes through multiple state, county and town parks all the way to Nyack, where it crosses the New York State Thruway (NY Route
- Beyond the Thruway, the Long Path traverses protected lands and unprotected lands alike through Project Area 3 and Project Area 4, before reaching the protection of Hook Mountain State Park.
- Past Hook Mountain State Park, the Long Path traverses through its last unprotected area within Rockland County in **Project Area 5**. After reaching High Tor State Park, the Long Path is fully protected all the way to the Orange County line within Harriman State Park, with **Project Area 6** highlighting one property that barely encroaches on the Long Path corridor.

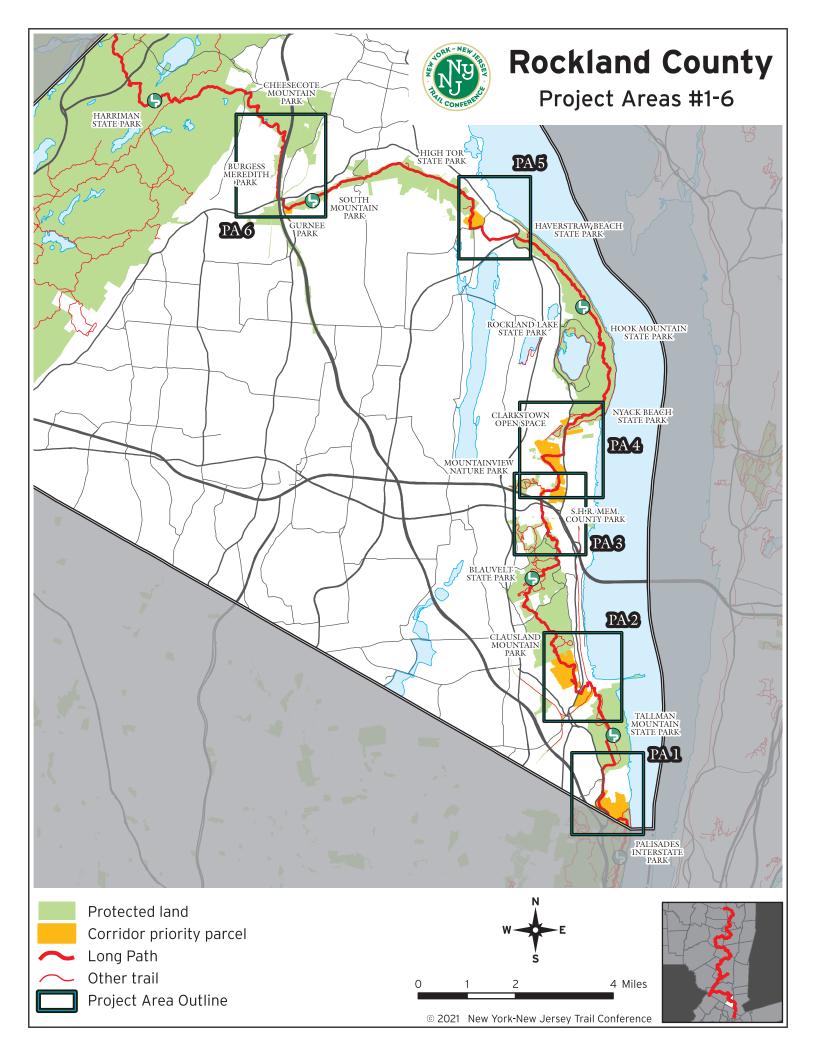
History:

The Trail Conference became involved with the Long Path after Robert Jessen proposed it in 1960 as a marked and maintained hiking trail. This was a big difference from Vince Schaefer's 1931 concept, a path without an actual trail. Volunteers from the Trail Conference began building the trail in the 1960s, starting from the George Washington Bridge and heading north. By 1970 the basic trail construction through Rockland County was complete.

During the 1970s the route was refined and on occasion relocations were performed. In 1973 the Long Path became part of Rockland County's Open Space and Recreation Program. The state, county and local municipalities have all helped to protect this project which was started by the Trail Conference.

In 1989 Rockland County put the Long Path on their official map. This helped to significantly elevate the status of the Long Path, as this action advises the Trail Conference both when a project first comes to a planning board and if a proposed project is located within 500 feet of the Long Path. Through the years, this has been beneficial to the Long Path as property owners have donated trail easements and, on rare occasion, actual property.

While there is still work left to protect the Long Path through Rockland County, it is largely agreed that the effort to protect the Long Path in Rockland County is a model that should be adopted by other counties along the Long Path corridor. There are no long road walks within the county, and a high percentage of the trail has been permanently protected.



Project Area #1

Palisades Interstate Park to Tallman Mountain State Park

Project Area Description:

- Within this project area, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory owns parcels on both sides of the New York-New Jersey border. Columbia University has provided written documentation that they support the Long Path and agree that the link across their land is important. They are reluctant to encumber their deed with an easement.
- This project area includes a proposed route for the Long Path through the recent Bergson donation and acquisition. The Long Path Committee is currently putting together a plan to implement this relocation, as of late November 2021.

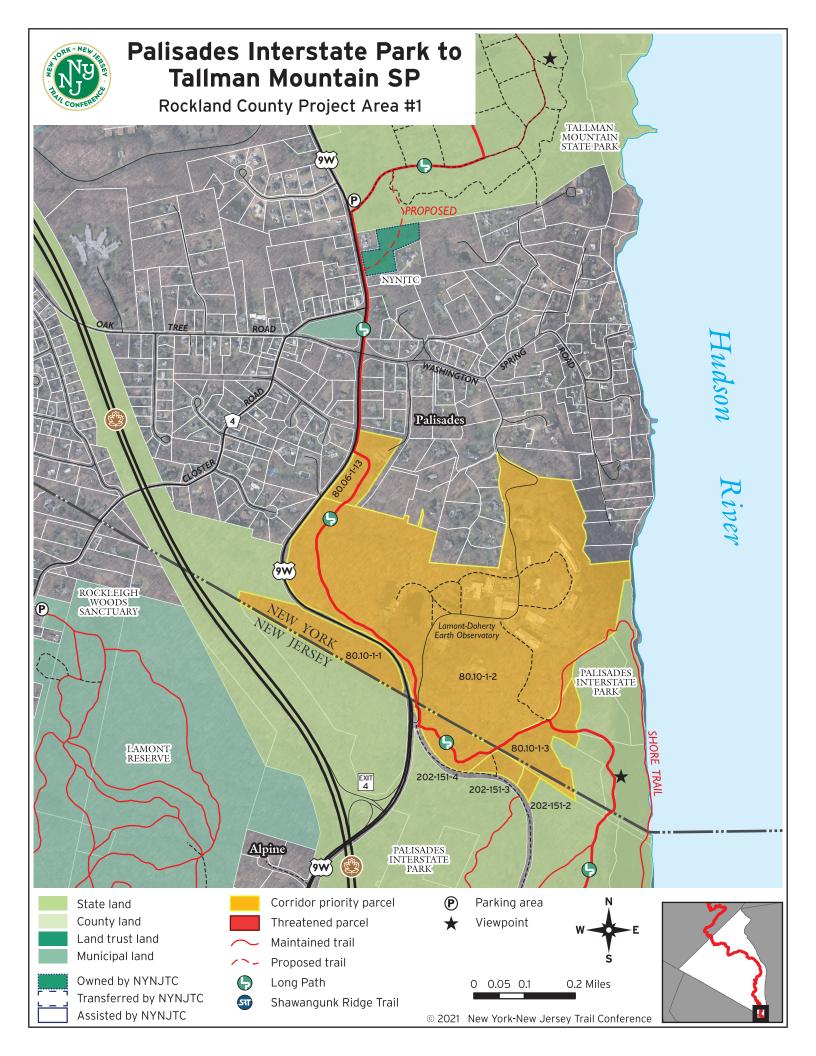
Action Needed:

Build the new section of trail on the Bergson acquisition.

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
202-151-2,	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	ALPINE
202-151-3,		
202-151-4		
Acres:	Description: Three vacant and wooded parcels contigu	uous with the Lamont-Doherty
1.11, 2.25, 6.29	Earth Observatory grounds just over the state border	. The Long Path passes
	through one parcel.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
80.10-1-3,	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	ORANGETOWN
80.10-1-2,		
80.06-1-13		
Acres:	Description: Parcels east of Route 9W that include the Lamont-Doherty Earth	
20.00, 136.28,	Observatory. Combined, these parcels are roughly 60% developed and 40%	
6.50	wooded. The Long Path passes through the wooded portions.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
80.10-1-1	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	ORANGETOWN
Acres:	Description: Vacant wooded parcel west of Route 9W that is also part of the	
11.5	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and adjacent to P	alisades Interstate Parkland.



Project Area #2

Tallman Mountain State Park to Clausland Mountain Park

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path currently leaves Tallman Mountain State Park and follows local roads for nearly 0.75 mile to the intersection of Route 9W and Castle Road. Although a private road, Castle Road has a deeded right of way for the Long Path, with the exception of the last parcel.
- The landowner of the last parcel has actually built a trail for the Long Path across their land. The trail then passes through Rockland Cemetery to reach Clausland Mountain County Park.

Action Needed:

- The road walk between Tallman Mountain State Park and Route 9W could be eliminated by crossing the Griff Construction and South Orangetown School District parcels in conjunction with the popular Old Erie Path Rail Trail.
- A permanent right of way for the Long Path is needed through the Ouroussoff parcel.
- A wooded ravine runs through the developed area of the Rockland Cemetery, and this would be a more desirable route for the Long Path. A trail easement is needed through the cemetery.

Priority Parcels:

Tallman Mountain State Park to Route 9W & Castle Road

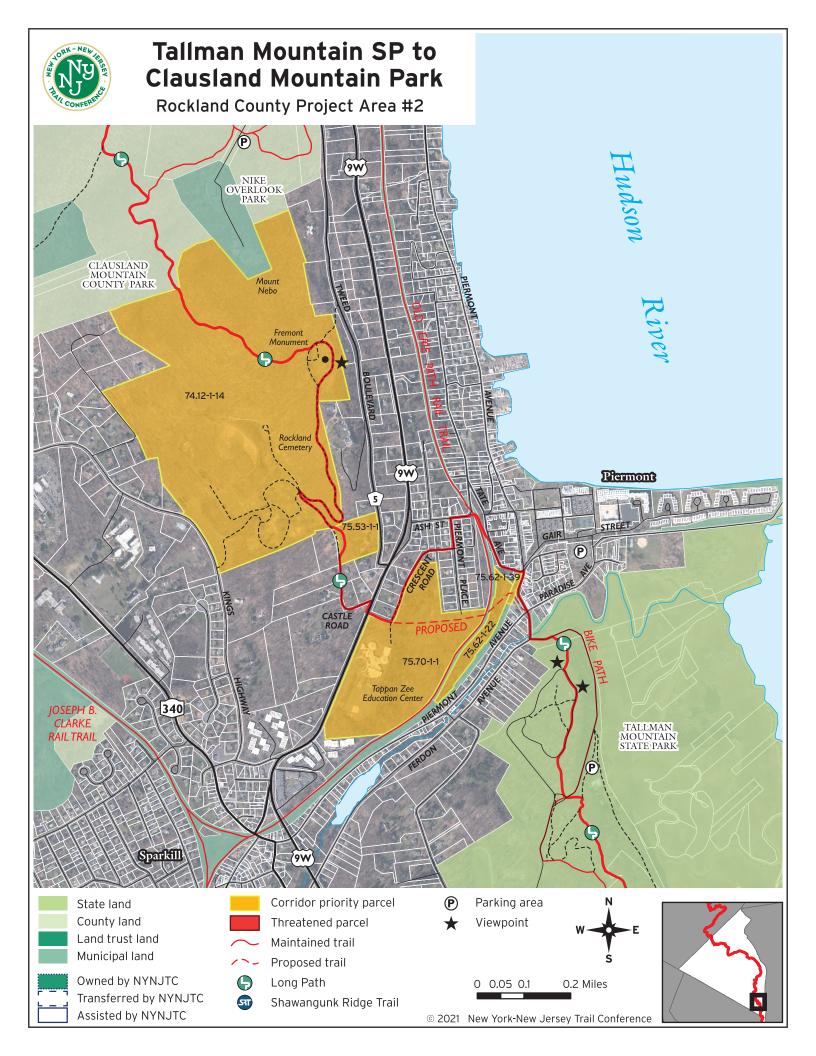
Parcels: 75.62-1-39, 75.62-1-22	Landowner: GRIFF CONSTRUCTION	Municipality: PIERMONT
Acres:	Description: Two connected wooded parcels. The smaller parcel has road frontage.	
0.50, 4.50	The larger parcel is between two old rail beds, includi	ng the Old Erie Path Rail Trail.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
75.70-1-1	SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT	PIERMONT
Acres:	Description: The main office of the South Orangetown School District. The northern	
39.30	portion includes a large undeveloped and wooded are	a. The Old Erie Path Rail Trail,
	Route 9W, and local roads are connected with this part	rcel.

Route 9W & Castle Road to Clausland Mountain Park

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
75.53-1-1	OUROUSSOFF	ORANGETOWN
Acres:	Description: Includes a home is accessed from Tweed Boulevard, but the backside	
4.79	of the parcel along Castle Road is wooded and include	s the route of the Long Path.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
74.12-1-14	ROCKLAND CEMETERY ATT: EILEEN KUNKEL	ORANGETOWN
Acres: 157.40	Description: A cemetery with a substantial amount of some steep slopes. The parcel directly connects with Park and Nike Overlook Park.	



Project Area #3

Blauvelt State Park to Mountainview Nature Park

Project Area Description:

- This project area is divided into two areas by the New York State Thruway. The Long Path crosses the Thruway on the Mountainview Avenue overpass.
- South of the Thruway, the Long Path leaves Blauvelt State Park and enters Rockland Countymanaged Sean Hunter Ryan Memorial Park. The south end of this park is narrow, so the trail runs along private land. The Long Path leaves the park and follows local roads for 0.75 mile to reach Mountainview Avenue and cross the Thruway.
- Once across the Thruway, the Long Path continues on the sidewalk for 0.1 mile before turning into the woods. The trail soon reaches the Rockland County-managed Mountainview Nature Park. This portion of the park is long and skinny as it passes between two condo complexes. The trail leaves the county park and passes through the corner of the Oak Hill Cemetery, then follows an access road uphill to a village water tower.

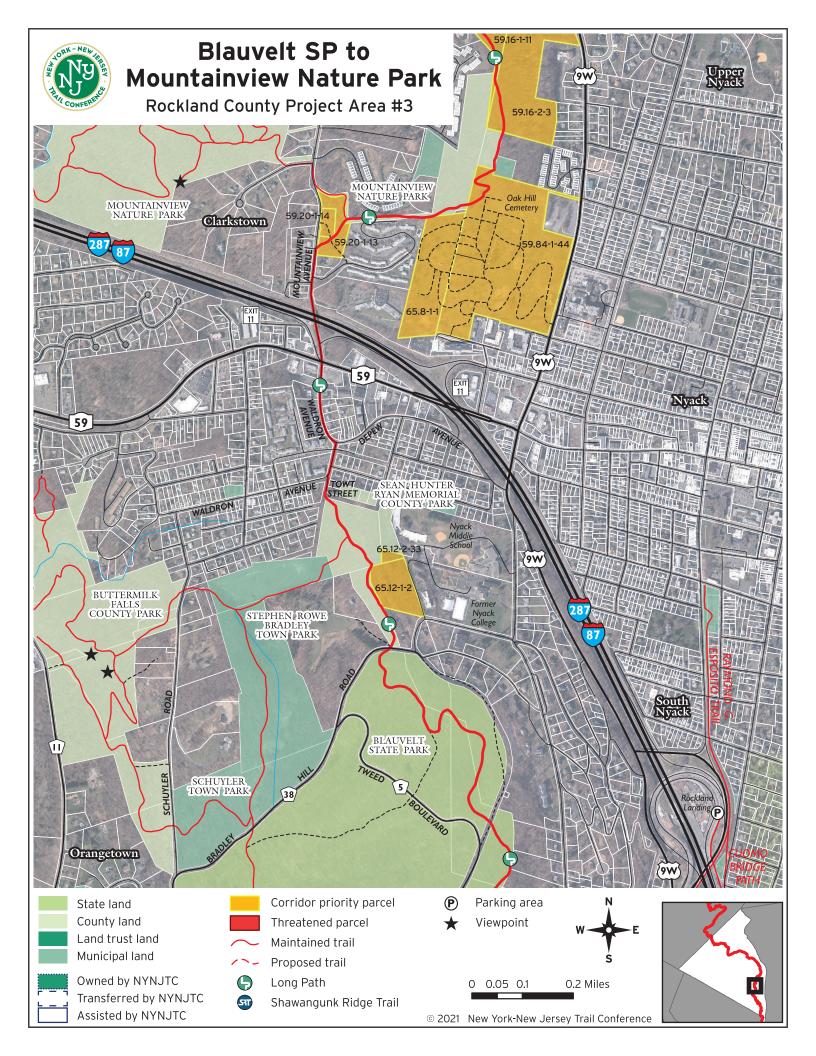
Action Needed:

- South of the Thruway, preserve the two former Nyack College parcels on the ridge to protect the trail corridor.
- Beyond Sean Hunter Ryan Memorial Park, the trail follows sidewalks through a developed area. It is a short stretch and the best option for reaching the Thruway crossing.
- North of the Thruway, additional land needs to be added to the Mountainview Nature Park to protect and enhance the trail corridor. The undeveloped land between Mountainview Avenue and the Warren Hills Condo Complex is **extremely important** for the Long Path corridor. The northwest corner of the Oak Hill Cemetery contains steep slopes, and it would be beneficial to preserve those.

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
65.12-1-2,	YESHIVATH YIZNITZ DKHAL TORATH CHAIM INC.	ORANGETOWN,
65.12-2-23		CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Part of the former Nyack College complex, these parcels extend	
5.60, 0.38	steeply to the top of the cliff near where the Long Path is located. This portion of	
	the complex is completely undeveloped and extends t	o the top of the Palisades cliff.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
59.20-1-13	WARREN HILLS ASSOC - PW FUNDING INC.	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Vacant wooded parcel that contains the access road for the Warren	
3.00	Hills Condo Complex to the east.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
59.84-1-44	OAK HILL CEMETERY	ORANGETOWN
Acres: 36.80	Description: An active cemetery. The village has an a property which leads to a water tower.	ccess road on the cemetery



Project Area #4

Mountainview Nature Park to Hook Mountain State Park

Project Area Description:

- This area has various open space parcels located throughout it. The first is located at the eastern border of Mountainview Condominiums. Although narrow, there is permanent protection for the Long Path and the area directly around this parcel at the east end of the condo complex.
- Leaving the protection of the Mountainview easement, the Long Path crosses the western boundary of Nyack High School land before reaching the Christian Herald Road Open Space parcel. The trail then follows Christian Herald Road and Route 9W to Hook Mountain State Park.
- North of the Christian Herald Road Open Space is the West Hook Mountain Open Space parcel. Both are owned by the Town of Clarkstown and were preserved for the Long Path. A planned relocation of the Long Path is shown in the project area map through West Hook Mountain Open Space.
- Once Christian Herald Road is reached, the Long Path could follow a sidewalk to Old Stone Road to reach the West Hook Mountain Open Space. A significant obstacle to this route is the crossing of Route 9W to Hook Mountain State Park, as this area includes steep cliffs.

Action Needed:

- The permanently protected trail corridor in this area should be extended across the western boundary of the Nyack High School. The forested slope through this area is on average over 500 feet wide, and preservation here would increase the width of the entire trail corridor from Mountainview Nature Park to the Christian Herald Road Open Space and would securely protect the trail.
- Currently, users can access West Hook Mountain by walking Old Stone Road. Preservation of the Camp Ramah and Blinn parcels would move the trail off of the road.
- The eastern exit of West Hook Mountain is currently a problem for the Long Path. One solution would be to build a bridge from the cliff to the east shoulder of Route 9W. A site has been identified and construction of a bridge at this location is possible.
- Another option is to preserve the Weinberger parcel at the north corner of the West Hook Mountain Open Space. The parcel is suitable for a trail route from the mountaintop, down to Route 9W.

Priority Parcels:

Mountainview Nature Park to Christian Herald Road Open Space

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
59.16-2-3,	YESHIVATH YIZNITZ DKHAL TORATH CHAIM INC.	UPPER NYACK,
59.16-1-11		CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Some development along the highway, but otherwise a steep wooded	
21.45, 14.43	slope of the Palisades. Located in two different communities.	

Parcels: 59.16-1-4, 59.16-1-5	Landowner: MOUNTAINVIEW CONDOMINIUM	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 2.88, 54.9	Description: Condo complex on the Palisades Escarpment approved in 1972, includes dedicated 6-foot-wide walking easement for the Long Path.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
59.16-1-3	UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT #4	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Site of Nyack High School. The complex is located on the eastern flat	
33.70	portion, with wooded steep slopes to the west where the Long Path is located.	

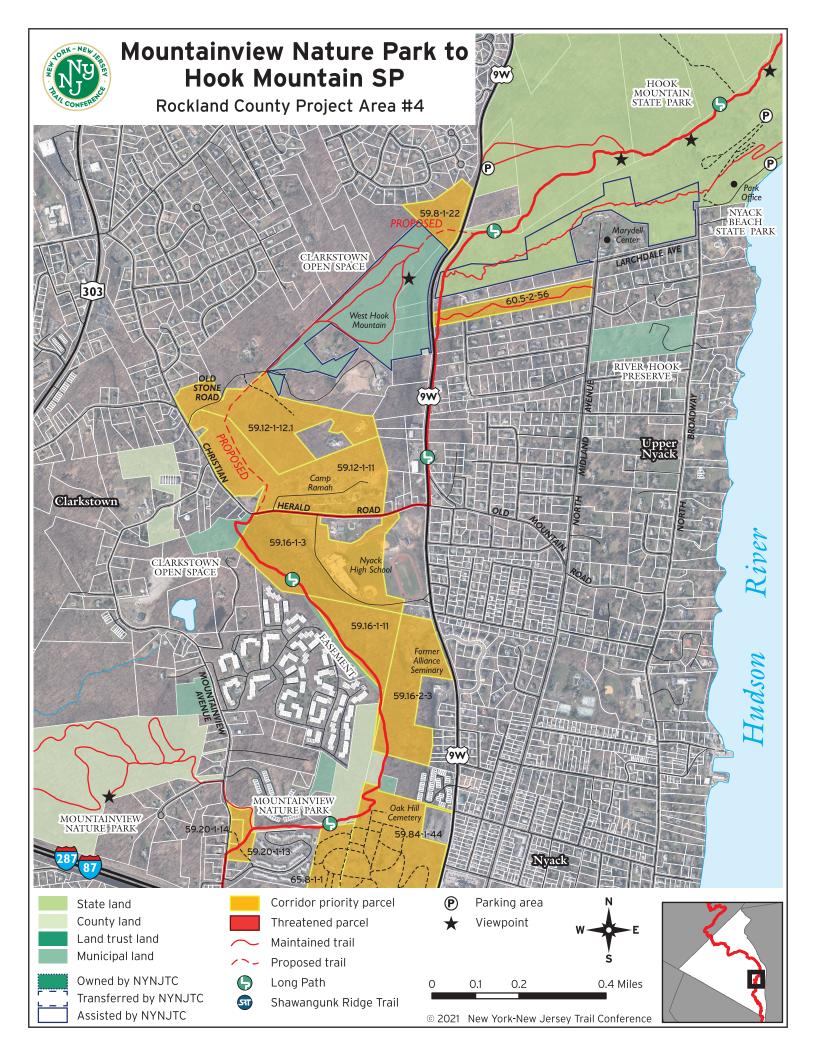
West Hook Mountain Open Space Southern Access

Parcel: 59.12-1-11	Landowner: JEWISH THEOL SEMINARY	Municipality: CLARKSTOWN
Acres: 35.69	Description: Day camp known as Camp Ramah. The elocated on the eastern portion, with wooded steep slo	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
59.12-1-12.1	OLIVE M BLINN REVOCABLE TRUST	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Mostly vacant mountain top parcel, with one residence in the	
27.18	southeast portion. Access roads traverse this parcel to various residences and the	
	West Hook Mountain Open Space.	

West Hook Mountain Open Space Northern Access

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
59.8-1-22	WEINBERGER	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Wooded parcel with steep rocky slopes that could be suitable for a	
7.70	trail. It is adjacent to the northeast corner of the Wes	t Hook Mountain Open Space.



Project Area #5

Hook Mountain State Park to High Tor State Park

Project Area Description:

- Leaving Hook Mountain State Park, the Long Path first follows abandoned Landmark Road. Although the road was abandoned, it was preserved as a permanent right of way for the Long Path. The abandoned road is next to the active Tilcon Quarry operation. The trail continues around the quarry on local roads. The Long Path then climbs High Tor Mountain, passing through land owned by Tilcon to reach High Tor State Park.
- The roads around the quarry are public roads. Even if they were abandoned, the roads would remain public right of ways for the Long Path.

Action Needed:

- The most critical need is to preserve the existing Long Path route through Tilcon-owned parcel 35.09-1-5 between County Route 90 and High Tor State Park.
- Long term action is needed for this entire project area. This quarry area should be preserved once it reaches its useful life as a quarry, as Tilcon owns all of the land between Hook Mountain State Park and High Tor State Park.
- Prior to the quarry's end-of-life, a different route through Tilcon-owned land could improve both the Long Path and Tilcon's operation.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
35.15-1-1	TILCON MINERALS INC.	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Includes an office building, located along	g abandoned Landmark Drive.
4.3		

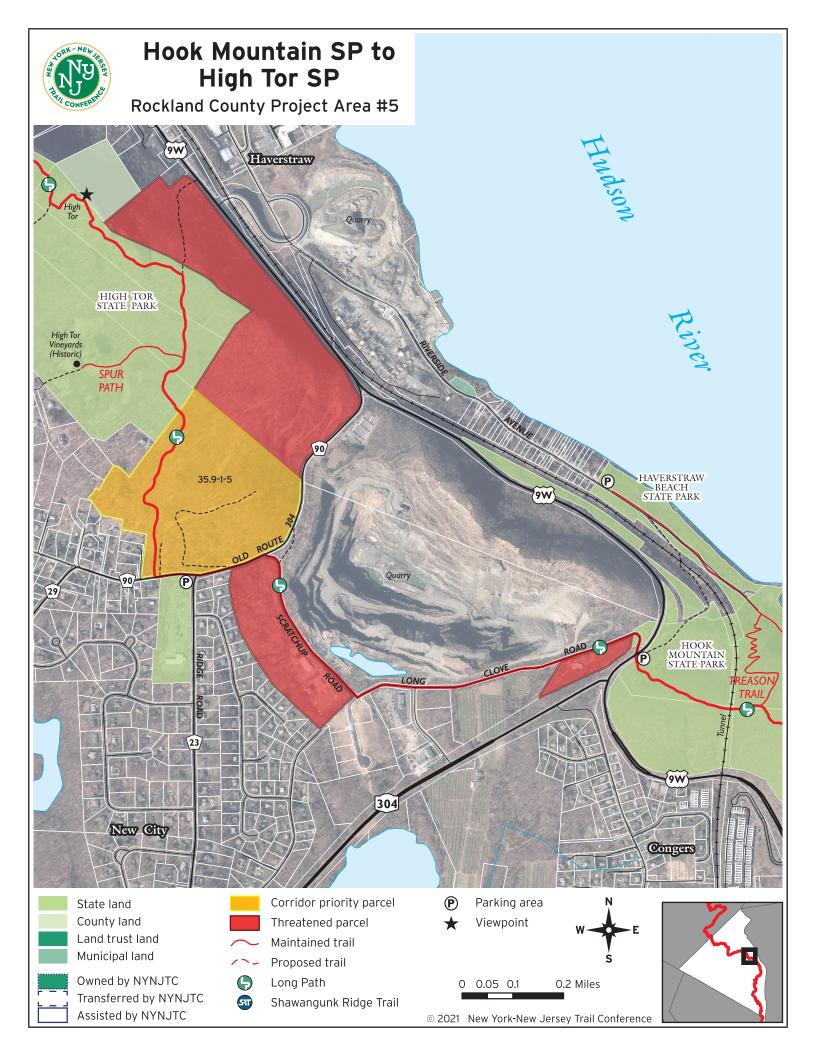
Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
35.10-1-1	TILCON MINERALS INC.	HAVERSTRAW
Acres:	Description: Contains the eastern portion of the existing quarry excavation and the	
68.9	remaining ridge along Route 9W, which faces the Hudson River.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
35.10-2-2	TILCON MINERALS INC.	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Contains the western portion of the existing quarry excavation.	
106.8		·

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
35.10-2-1	TILCON MINERALS INC.	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Contains the Maintenance building and y	ard for Tilcon's operation
21.3	west of the quarry.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
35.09-1-5	TILCON MINERALS INC.	CLARKSTOWN
Acres:	Description: Vacant wooded parcel that is part of High Tor Mountain. The Long	
57.00	Path crosses the western boundary.	<u> </u>

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
35.06-1-1	TILCON MINERALS INC.	HAVERSTRAW
Acres:	Description: Part of High Tor Mountain, it faces south and east and is visible from	
65.9	the Hudson River.	



Project Area #6

Gurnee Park to Cheesecote Mountain Park

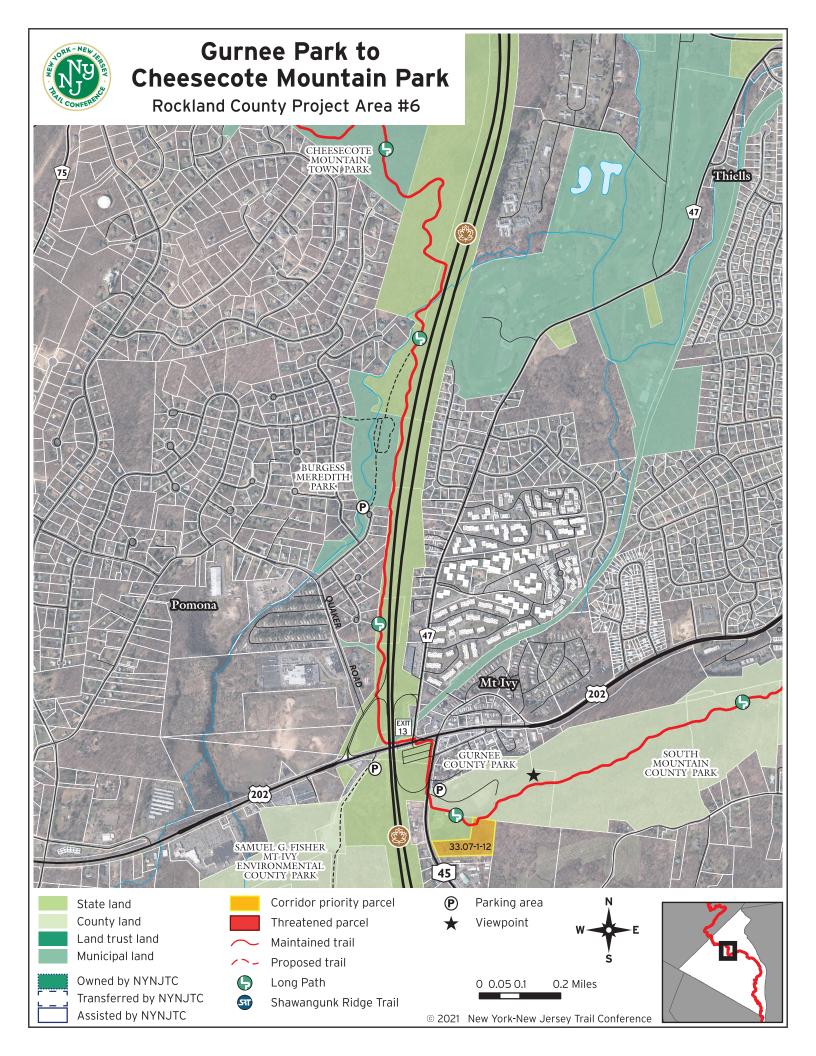
Project Area Description:

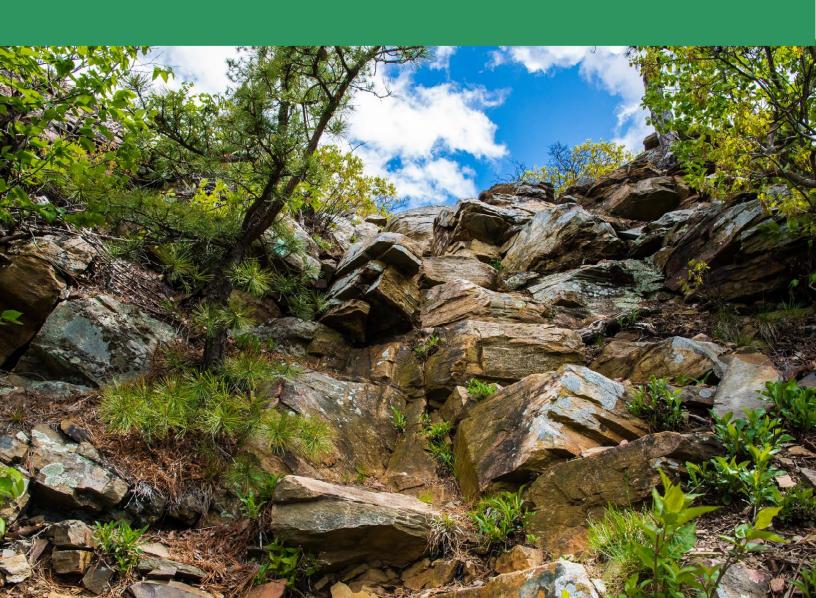
- With the exception of a short road walk to get under the Palisades Parkway, this project area has a protected trail corridor. One parcel south of Gurnee Park is extremely close to the trail corridor and should be preserved.
- The Long Path continues along the Palisades Parkway through Palisades Interstate Parkland before reaching Cheesecote Mountain Town Park.

Action Needed:

• Preserve the northern portion of the lone private parcel in the trail corridor.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
33.07-1-12	STUARTS OUTDOOR LIVING INC	RAMAPO
Acres:	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with a residence along NY Route 45. The Long	
5.4	Path passes through the most northern portion.	





Protection Overview:

There are **7 Project Areas** within Orange County. Protecting a corridor in each of these areas would completely protect the Long Path in Orange County, which runs 66.5 miles through the county. Additionally, there are 2 Project Areas along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail between High Point State Park in New Jersey and the Long Path.

- Leaving Rockland County, the Long Path weaves westward. Starting in Harriman State Park and exiting Orange County into the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area along the Shawangunk Mountains, large portions of the Long Path in Orange County remain unprotected.
- Within Harriman State Park, the Long Path provides sweeping views of the surrounding Hudson Valley and Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks from atop Long Mountain, This location also includes a memorial to Raymond H. Torrey, a founding member of the Trail Conference.
- The first three project areas are in the east side of the county, where there is intense development pressure. In Project Area 1, there are barriers that need to be resolved for a permanent off-road, year-round route. The West Point Military Reservation is both a barrier and a possible solution to a year-round permanent Long Path route.
- In **Project Area 2** and **Project Area 3**, a corridor aims to connect a state park, four separate Town of Woodbury parklands, and two county parks. Barriers to success include private landowners, intense development pressures, and lack of a permanent trail corridor across land owned by Orange and Rockland Utilities.
- The project areas in the east are separated from the west by the Heritage Trail, a 25-mile trail corridor. Currently, the Long Path is co-aligned with the Heritage Trail for 12.7 miles. The Heritage Trail is an Orange County Park. It is a multi-use rail tail that has a 10-foot wide, paved surface and a wide grass surface available to walk on.
- Important Note: Currently, the Long Path leaves the Heritage Trail at County Route 50 and follows public roads for 13.25 miles to Huckleberry Ridge State Forest on the Shawangunk Ridge. This entire route will eventually be abandoned for a more favorable option, presented in Project Area 4. Project Area 5 and Project Area 6.
- Orange County has extended the Heritage Trail beyond Route 50 into the City of Middletown. The City is currently working to extend the Heritage Trail to the northwest side of the city at Fancher Davidge Park. The City of Middletown recently opened their Reservoir lands for public use and also built a network of trails. The area between Fancher Davidge Park and the Reservoir Trails is 0.75 mile and is **Project Area 4**.
- Project Area 5 is entirely within the watershed lands owned by the City of Middletown, which contains the Reservoir Trails. Recently, the City of Middletown has agreed to allow for the Long Path to be routed here. **Project Area 6** is predominantly the County of Orange Indigot Watershed, additional Middletown watershed lands, and then private land for the last mile.
- **Project Area 7** includes a 4.5 mile stretch of the abandoned Erie railbed that is a critical piece of coaligned Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail to be preserved.
- Project Area 8 and Project Area 9 cover sections of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to the south.

History:

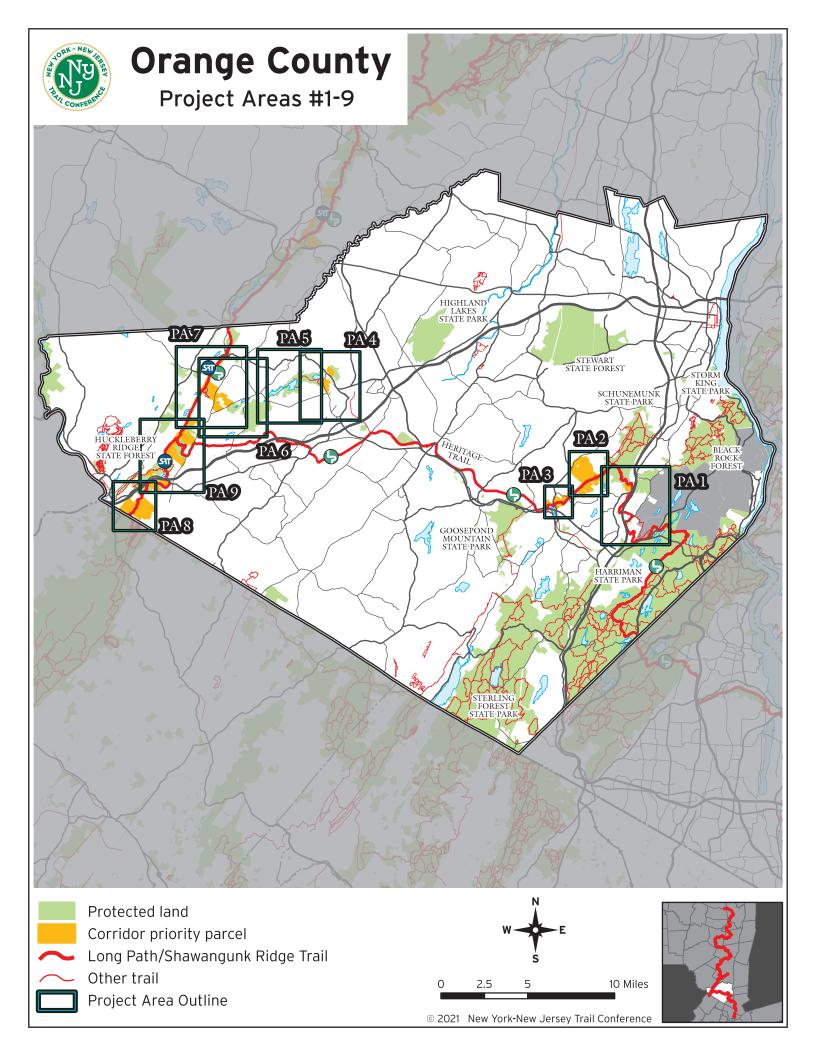
In Orange County, establishing a permanent route has eluded Long Path advocates for six decades. In 1960, the Long Path left Harriman State Park, went through West Point and over Storm King Mountain, and then followed roads and the New York City agueduct north. In 1962, the Long Path was relocated to the northwest side of Harriman State Park and routed over Florence Mountain to Schunemunk Mountain. It then went over Woodcock Mountain and followed the abandoned O&W rail bed from Station Road all the way beyond Route 207 to the Stewart Airport Buffer land (currently Stewart State Forest). From Maybrook, the Long Path followed roads into Ulster County to the Shawangunk Ridge. With some minor changes this route was in place for 33 years. The O&W railbed has mostly been replaced with housing developments through New Windsor.

In 1992 & 1993, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail was built between High Point State Park in New Jersey and Sam's Point in Ulster County. This route avoided the big road walks through Orange County, and it became known as "the Backpacker's Route" for the Long Path.

In 1995, the Long Path needed to move due to encroaching housing developments. At Salisbury Mills, the trail now followed the abandoned Erie railbed through Washingtonville to Tomahawk Lake. It then followed roads through Hamptonburgh and Scotchtown, finally reaching Highlands Lakes State Park just north of Route 211. Beyond the undeveloped state park was a 17-mile road walk to Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest on the Shawangunk Ridge in Sullivan County. As time progressed, the trail could no longer follow the old Erie railbed, which resulted in an 18-mile road walk to reach Highland Lakes State Park.

By 2011, the farms and open spaces along the existing route had been replaced with housing developments. The Long Path Committee again had to scout a new route. New mapping resources like Google Earth helped make this work a little easier, and in 2012, the Long Path was rerouted to its present location. Today, the Long Path travels southwest on Schunemunk Mountain and then follows the Orange Heritage Trail (former Erie mainline) for 14 miles. The trail then follows local roads to reach Huckleberry Ridge State Forest on the Shawangunk Ridge in Greenville.

The Heritage Trail has now been extended into the City of Middletown, and work is ongoing to extend it further through the city. The city has also graciously opened public hiking trails on their reservoir land. The City of Middletown has given permission for the Long Path to use these trails, and history-in-themaking is occurring right now in Project Areas 4, 5, and 6.



Project Area #1

Harriman State Park to Schunemunk State Park

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path leaves the protection of Harriman State Park and follows roads for 3.35 miles before reaching an abandoned railbed which it follows toward Schunemunk State Park. Currently hikers can follow a seasonal route through the West Point Training Reserve; this route is open to users for around six months annually. This reduces the present road walk to just 1 mile. A permanent route through the West Point land is desired. The trail enters Schunemunk State Park at the end of this project area.
- An alternate option for the Long Path would be to continue through the West Point land along Smith Clove Road and then through Legacy Ridge; state parkland managed by the Open Space Institute.
- The underground aguifer which runs below the Woodbury Creek contains wells for both the Woodbury and Kiryas Joel water districts. Protecting the land along the Woodbury Creek will protect the water supply for these communities.

Action Needed:

- Considering the current conditions, developing a permanently protected trail corridor completely off roads will be a difficult task through this area. The current obstacles are the West Point Training Area, and housing developments between Harriman State Park and the Woodbury Creek.
- Option 1 would be to use the current route combined with a permanent route through the West Point land and preserving a corridor along Woodbury Creek. Across Route 32 a corridor needs to be preserved through the abandoned quarry along the active Railroad right of way.
- Option 2 is an alternate option which avoids a 1-mile road walk and abandoned railbed along the Woodbury Creek. The trail would need to be routed along Smith Clove Road on West Point land and through Legacy Ridge (State Park land managed by OSI). The trail would then follow route 32 to where the existing Long Path crosses the road.
- Route 32 could be avoided if a pedestrian bridge or tunnel was built to route the trail across the Thruway between Legacy Ridge and the current trail crossing at route 32 at Woodbury Creek.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
232-1-1	WEST POINT	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: This mostly forested parcel is a training area for the military academy.	
960.76	The Long Path is routed through it seasonally.	·

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
218-2-18	NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: Includes an active railbed which the Metro North RR uses. A gas	
27.68	pipeline ROW runs along an abandoned railbed on this parcel. The Long Path follows	
	the gas pipeline through this parcel.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
218-2-2	CEMETERY OF THE HIGHLANDS, INC	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: This is a cemetery which is located west of the Woodbury Creek. The	
44.65	pipeline which the Long Path follows runs next to a portion of this property located	
	east of the Woodbury Creek.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
207-1-1.2	CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: This is an abandoned railbed which now contains a gas pipeline. The	
5.71	old railbed runs between the active RR and the Woodbury Creek.	

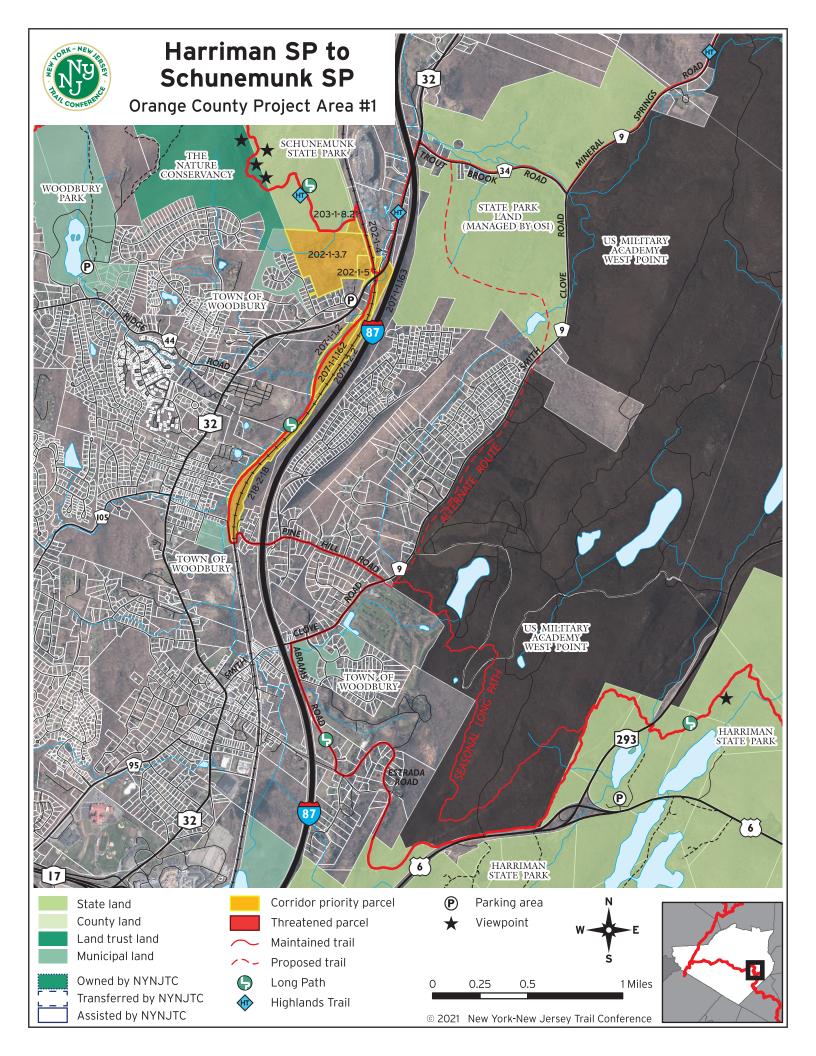
Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
207-1-1.162,	GROSS	WOODBURY
207-1-1.163		
Acres:	Description: These wooded parcels are divided by the active RR, the abandoned	
15.90, 4.80	railbed (pipeline) and the Woodbury Creek. Routing the Long Path across this	
	property would eliminate the current unabridged trail crossing at Woodbury Creek.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
207-1-2.2	NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: Norfolk Southern is a 20.23-acre parcel with the Metro North RR on it.	
20.23	The pipeline ROW enters this parcel downhill from the RR. The trail crosses	
	Woodbury Creek and route 32 and then re-enters this	parcel.

Parcels: 202-1-4, 203-1-9.2	Landowner: NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION	Municipality: WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: The Long Path is routed through the forested land which runs adjacent	
3.31, 5.5	to the active RR on these parcels.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
202-1-3.7,	SPEYSIDE HOLDINGS LLC	WOODBURY
202-1-5		
Acres:	Description: These parcels are both part of an old quarry that is now covered with	
63.4, 5.5	vegetation. Both parcels would be more suitable for the Long Path. They would also	
	be suitable for a parking lot to serve the adjacent State Park.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
203-1-8.21	CEM III LLC	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: This wooded parcel is part of the large active quarry east of the RR.	
30.6	The Long Path currently runs along the western boundary of this parcel in the	
	woods along the active RR.	



Project Area #2

Schunemunk State Park to Gonzaga Park

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path and Highlands Trail are co-aligned through this project area. The trail leaves Schunemunk State Park and crosses a mix of town parkland and private land. The region is under intense development pressure on both sides of the ridgeline. At the other end of this project area, the Long Path enters Gonzaga Park, an Orange County park. New York State Parks has a 200 foot wide Long Path easement through Gonzaga Park. This entire stretch of the Long Path is on the ridgeline and is lined with steep slopes. This provides many far-reaching views along the trail.
- The 1923 New York Walk Book describes Schunemunk Mountain as running more than 8 miles from its southwestern end at Monroe on the Erie mainline to its northeastern point east of Salisbury Mills. It further describes a trail running 6 miles from the northern trail network to Monroe. Meaning the trail that runs through this protection area is at least 100 years old.

Action Needed:

Permanently protecting the entire ridgetop between Gonzaga Park (County of Orange) and Schunemunk State Park. Due to the steep slopes the corridor should be no less than 500 feet. At minimum, a trail easement extending New York State Parks trail easement from Gonzaga Park across the entire ridgetop would permanently protect this 100+ year old trail corridor.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
202-1-58.2	WOODBURY FIELD & STREAM CLUB	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: This property is used as a hunting preserve. It is desirable to protect	
119.60	the extreme ridgetop portion of this parcel as parkland.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
202-1-57,	TOWN OF WOODBURY	WOODBURY
202-1-56,		
204-1-30		
Acres:	Description: This is a 236-acre town park. It is unknown if the parkland is	
106.30, 17.10,	permanently protected. The Long Path and Highlands Trail currently cross this park	
113.00	at the ridgetop.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
20-2-2.2	A&M DEVELOPMENT CORP	BLOOMING GROVE
Acres:	Description: This wooded parcel reaches up to the ridgeline near the trail. It is	
143.3	desirable to preserve the ridge top portion of this parcel and protect the trail	
	corridor.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
204-2-205	20 APPLE HILL LLC	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: The approved subdivision map restricts any construction above the	
31.7	build line shown on the map. Most of the property falls within that restricted area.	
	The Long Path and Highlands Trail currently cross this parcel.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
41-1-1.13,	KEENE EQUITIES "CLOVE DEVELOPMENT"	BLOOMING GROVE,
208-1-3		SOUTH BLOOMING GROVE
Acres:	Description: This 814-acre parcel starts in the valley and stretches to across the	
158, 655.7	western slope to the ridgeline. There is currently a development proposal for the	
	site. In the proposal they suggest preserving the ridge top.	

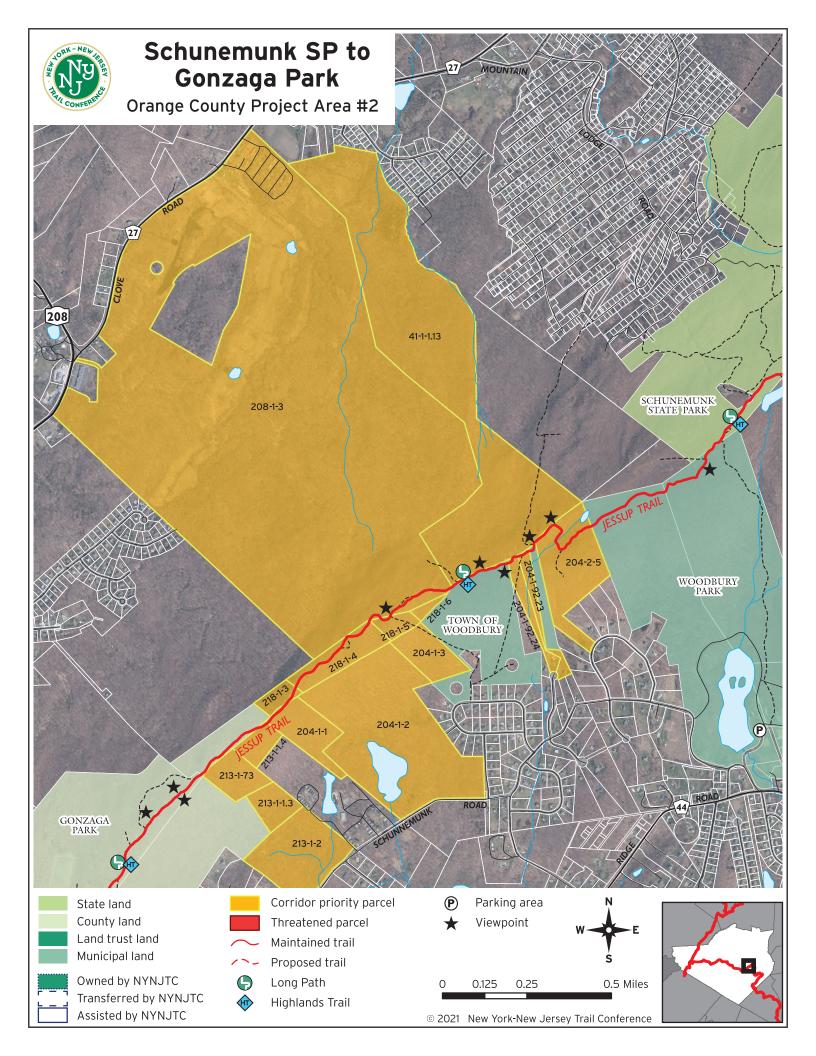
Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
204-1-92.3,	TOWN OF WOODBURY	WOODBURY,
247-5-1,		BLOOMING GROVE
218-1-6		
Acres:	Description: These three parcels were preserved as open space by the town when	
5.8, 42.7, 1.5	they approved the individual subdivisions.	

Parcel: 204-1-92.23	Landowner: ROSENFELD	Municipality: WOODBURY
Acres: 5	Description: Has a house located on the eastern boundary near the roadside. This long skinny parcel climbs steeply to the ridgetop. The Long Path and Highlands Trail	
	are on the ridgetop here.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
204-1-92.24	HEIMANN	WOODBURY
Acres:	Description: This parcel has a house located on the eastern boundary near the	
5.3	roadside. This long skinny parcel climbs steeply to the ridgetop. The Long Path and	
	Highlands Trail are on the ridgetop here.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
218-1-5,	SYW PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC	BLOOMING GROVE,
218-1-4,		WOODBURY
218-1-3,		
204-1-3,		
204-1-2,		
204-1-1,		
213-1-1.4,		
213-1-73,		
213-1-1.3		
Acres:	Description: This property is around 215 acres and stretches from the top of the	
4.8, 13, 4.4,	ridge down to Schunnemunk Road. Most of the property is in the Town of	
14.1, 105.4, 16.1,	Woodbury. The Long Path and Highlands Trail cross this land at the ridge top. This	
6.6, 11.4, 8	single owner owns the entire stretch between Gonzaga Park and a 42.7-acre Town	
	of Woodbury open space parcel.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
218-1-2	MOUNTAINSIDE DEVELOPMENT	BLOOMING GROVE
Acres:	Description: This wooded parcel stretches from intense development on the lower	
159.3	western slope to the ridgetop. It is extremely close to the trail corridor.	



Project Area #3

Gonzaga Park to Heritage Trail

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path is co-aligned with the Highlands Trail through this entire project area. This short stretch is under intense development pressure. The parcels listed below are the last remaining lineal wooded strip through this project area. The project area is 1.6 miles in length. The existing trail connects two Orange County Parks.
- The current off-road portion of the trail is 1.15 miles and completely on land owned by Orange and Rockland Utilities. Pictured below is the O&R land east of route 208 and behind their office/maintenance building and yard. The trail crosses 208 and runs along the shore of a lake on another O&R parcel.

Action Needed:

- Orange and Rockland Utilities own the land that the trail currently follows between Seven Springs Road and Route 208. This is a critical link for the trail that we need to protect permanently. A closure of the trail here would result in a long road walk along an extremely dangerous road to reach 208. O&R also owns the land between Route 208 and Museum Village Road. Preserving a permanent trail crore across O&R's land is the highest priority in this project area.
- Preserving a trail corridor across the additional land listed and shown would provide further protection from the encroaching heavy development.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
1-1-25.3	AM SEVEN SPRINGS LLC	MONROE
Acres:	Description: A vacant, completely wooded parcel attached to Gonzaga Park.	
3.06		

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
367-1-9.2,	BAKERTOWN RD HOLDING LLC	PALM TREE (KJ),
1-1-23.2		MONROE
Acres:	Description: Most of this land is in the Village of Kiryas Joel. A portion of this parcel	
29.10, 1.5	runs along the other side of the road in the Town of Monroe. The Long Path and	
	Highlands Trail run along the road adjacent to this parcel.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
1-1-25.4	7 SPRINGS VILLAS LLC	MONROE
Acres:	Description: This vacant wooded parcel is predominantly covered by trees. We	
62.1	would like to preserve a trail corridor across this parcel.	

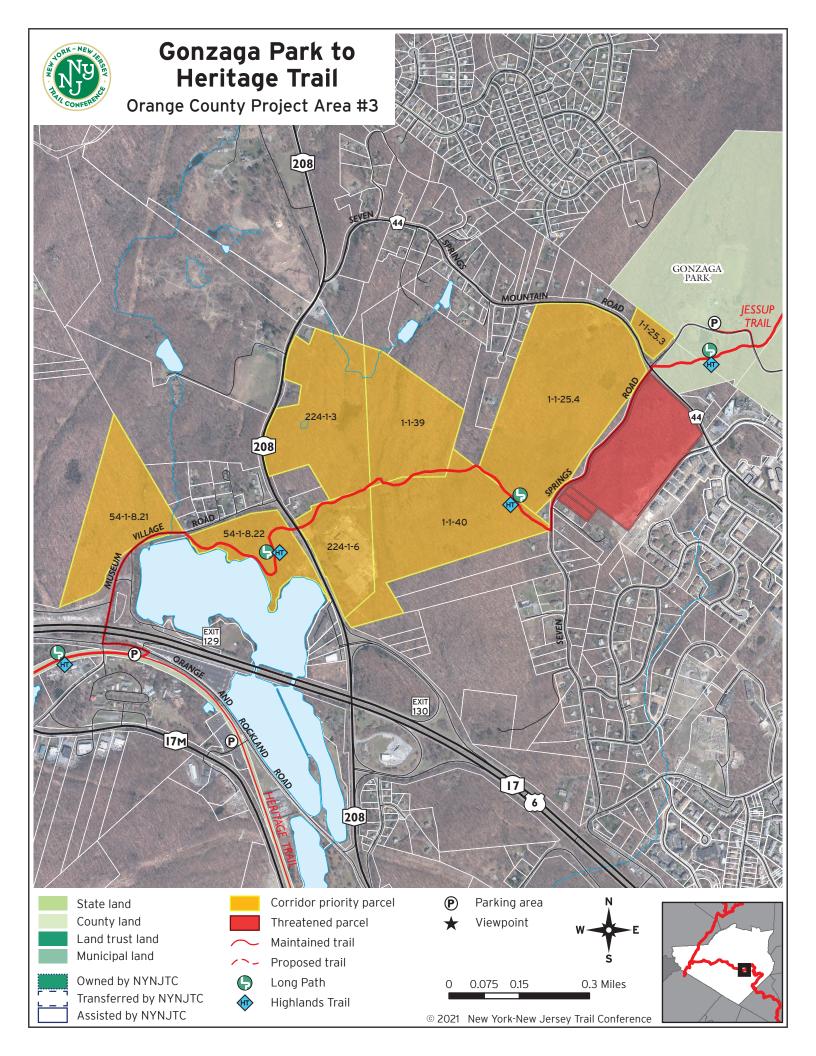
Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
1-1-39	PORT ORANGE HOLDINGS LLC	MONROE
Acres:	Description: A vacant wooded parcel directly next to the trail and part of the	
20.15	existing trail corridor.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
224-1-3	DAULAN FUNDING LLC	SOUTH BLOOMING GROVE
Acres: 35.9	Description: A vacant, wooded parcel directly next to existing trail corridor.	the trail and part of the

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
1-1-40	ORANGE & ROCKLAND UTL INC	MONRÓE
Acres:	Description: The parcel is completely wooded and lin	ed by rock walls. It is an
43.60	important trail connector between Seven Springs Road and the additional land O&R	
	owns on route 208.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
54-1-8.22,	ORANGE & ROCKLAND UTL INC	BLOOMING GROVE,
224-1-6		SOUTH BLOOMING GROVE
Acres:	Description: The trail drops through a series of cliffs on the SBG parcel then passes	
18.60, 16.90	along the boundary passing by O&R's office and main	tenance facility.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
54-1-8.21	MEDIACOM REALTY LLC	BLOOMING GROVE
Acres:	Description: An undeveloped wooded parcel. The trai	I currently passes by it on the
27.10	road.	



Project Area #4

Heritage Trail to Middletown Watershed

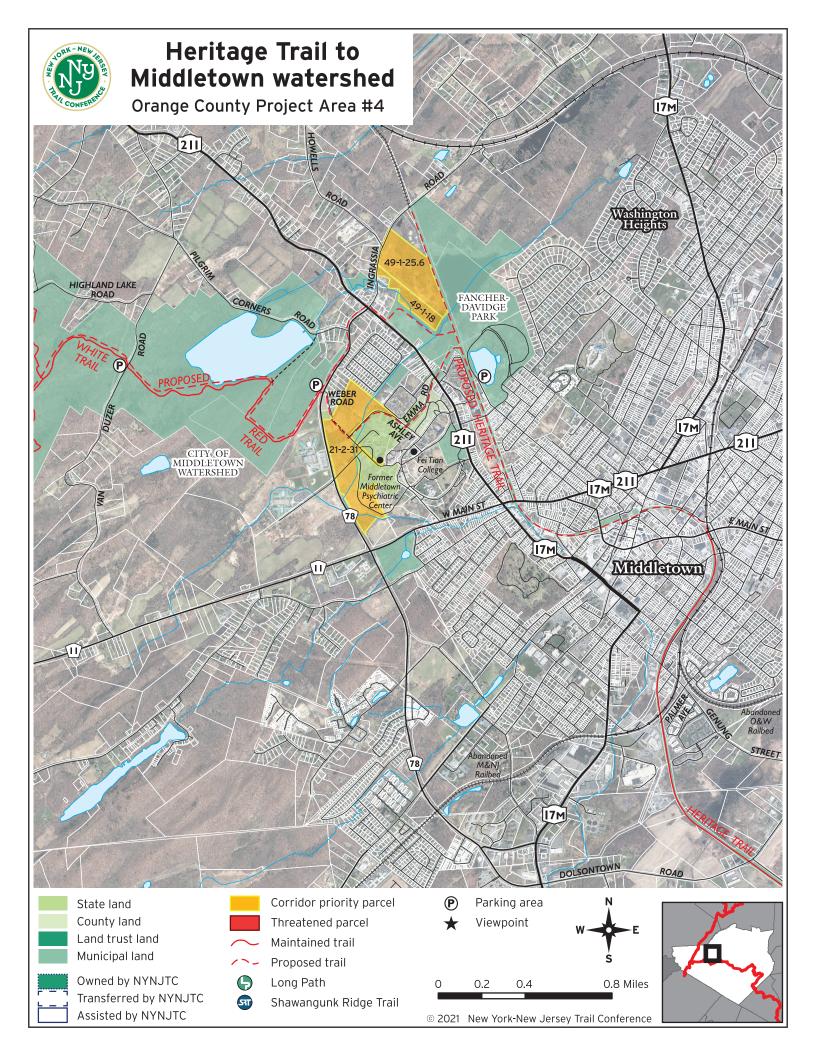
Project Area Description:

- Project Areas 4, 5, and 6 depend on the completion of the Heritage Trail extension through Middletown. Recently, The Heritage Trail was extended from Hartley Road in Goshen to Palmer Avenue in the City of Middletown. The City of Middletown is replacing bridges and clearing the old railbed in various places throughout the city. They are confident that the Heritage Trail will be completed from Palmer Avenue to Fancher Davidge Park, the beginning of this project area.
- It is only \oplus of a mile in a straight line between Fancher Davidge Park and the recently opened Middletown Reservoir Trails. This being an urban area does not offer forested off-road routes within this project area. In addition to the 108.1-acre city park, the City of Middletown owns another 96.5 acres which is directly connected with the Fancher Davidge Park. The Heritage Trail will run directly through this park

Action Needed:

- Option 1 Leaving the Heritage Trail, the Long Path could be routed through vacant wooded parcels owned by the City of Middletown to reach Route 211. Across the highway, the trail could follow Emma Ave and Ashley Ave through the former State of New York Hospital grounds. It could then either cross the open to reach Dorothea Dix Drive, or just follow the road. Dorothea Dix Drive has a barrier to prevent vehicles from passing through, but pedestrians are able to use it. The road reaches Route 78 where the access to the Middletown Reservoir Trails is directly across the street. This would be the preferred route as traffic volumes are low through this area.
- Option 2 Route the trail on New York state Route 211 and Orange County Route 78. The distance is about 0.35 mile. Both of these routes are busy highways.

Parcel: 21-2-31	Landowner: FEI TIAN COLLEGE	Municipality: MIDDLETOWN
Acres: 62.1	Description: Vacant fields owned by the College	



Project Area #5

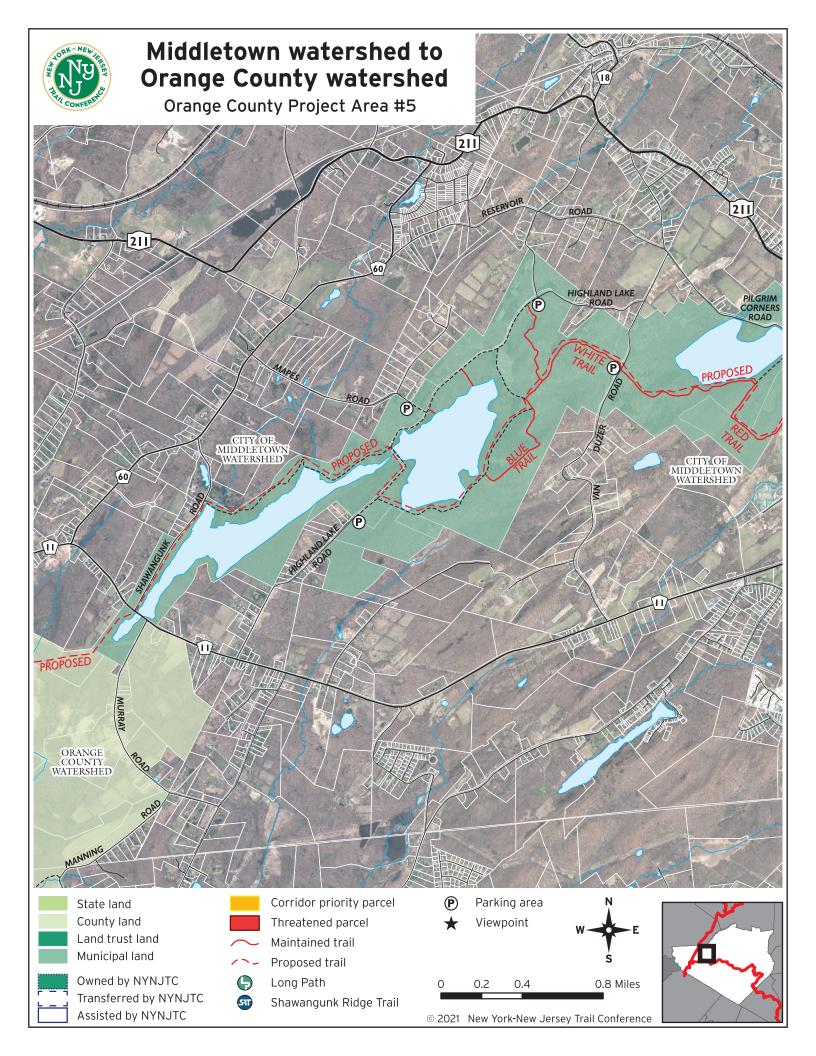
Middletown Watershed to Orange County Watershed

Project Area Description:

- This project area has turned into a success story. In addition to the Heritage Trail extension through the City of Middletown, the city made a decision to open up their reservoir land with multi-use, non-motorized trails. The Long Path was included within the feasibility study created by the city, leading to the opening of this land.
- After a bit of research, we found the North Country Scenic Trail, Although much longer than the Long Path, we quickly realized the two trails have a lot in common. They both link towns with open space areas.
- The Long Path Committee has been working for decades to resolve the long consecutive road walks through Orange County. In 2012, we did a major reroute of the Long Path which moved the trail into western Orange County. We were still troubled about how to preserve land along the present 13-mile road walk through two towns.
- In 2020, the City of Middletown cleared and marked trails in their reservoir watershed. They quickly built new parking areas and opened the trail system for public use. It's a beautiful area that has rolling hills which are forested. This 1465 acres contains three of the city's reservoirs which at times the trails pass nearby

Action Needed:

- At this point, the construction of the Heritage Trail between Palmer Avenue and Fancher Davidge Park is in process. Once that section is opened, the plan is to move the Long Path onto it. As noted above, reaching the Middletown Reservoir Trails will be simple.
- Beyond the reservoir trails, we still need to gain access to the Indigot Watershed and additional Middletown reservoir land. Extensive trail construction would be needed to cross these watershed properties.
- It is 3.4 miles from the Reservoir Trails to the Graham Mountain State Forest. The Long Path could be routed on the roads prior to trail construction beyond the Reservoir Trails. That would be 9.85 miles shorter than the current road walk the Long Path follows.



Project Area #6

Orange County Watershed to Graham Mountain State Forest

Project Area Description:

- This project area is around 3.6 miles in length yet separated by two separate issues. For the first 2.6 miles, all of the land is municipally owned. Orange County owns 1280 acres which it preserved as the Indigot Watershed; they never developed a water system on it. To the west, the City of Middletown owns 264 acres that contains an additional city reservoir. These two watershed properties are directly connected together along with the City of Middletown, 1465 acres in Project Area 5. Together, this totals approximately 6.8 trail miles and a total of 3,009 acres which are all connected and municipally owned.
- The last mile is an area mixed with residential development, vacant land and a dairy farm. Two potential options to access Graham Mountain State Forest from the City of Middletown lands are presented.

Action Needed:

• The County of Orange needs to be convinced to open the Indigot Watershed and allow public trails. The public land is currently leased and posted by private hunting clubs. Beyond the county's land there is additional City of Middletown Reservoir land. The city has been much easier to work with and is very willing to allow routing the Long Path across this land. We have been talking to the county about routing the Long Path through the Indigot Watershed for a decade now. We will continue conversations as this is the best option for the Long Path through Orange County.

Priority Parcels:

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
Numerous	COUNTY OF ORANGE	MOUNT HOPE, GREENVILLE
Acres: 1,280	Description: This nearly 1,300-acre tract was reserve Indigot Watershed.	d for the County of Orange's

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
Numerous	CITY OF MIDDLETOWN	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Flat wooded land with a reservoir, steam and some wetlands.	
264		

Option 1

option:		
Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-73.11	GOOD DADA INCORPORATED	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: The vacant parcel is partially wooded ar	nd partially open with the
37.8	Marcy South Powerline at the division line.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-18.2	EVANS	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Wooded parcel with house at one corner and the Marcy South	
11.2	Powerline crossing another corner.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-11.1	JENS H ARTUS PROTECTION TRUST	MOUNT HOPE
Acres: 35	Description: A wooded vacant parcel with two access	points to Homestead Lane.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-9	KETCHAM FAMILY PROP LLC	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: This parcel is part of a dairy farm. The parcel is partially open and	
36.4	partially wooded. It has road frontage on Homestead	Lane and Mountain Rd.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-3.22	42 REALTY HOLDINGS LLC	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Partially wooded and partially open with a house in the open area.	
45.8	There is an access to the state forest through this property.	

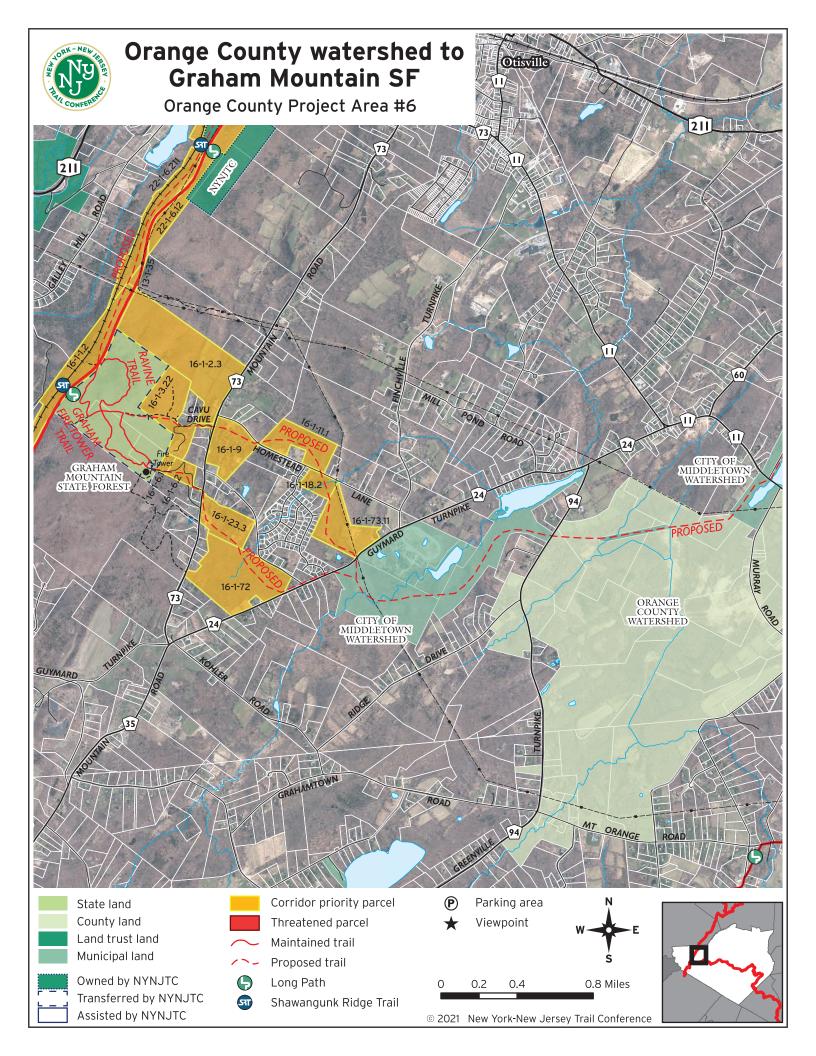
Option 2

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-72	MOUNT HOPE REALTY HOLDINGS	MIDDLETOWN
Acres:	Description: Vacant wooded parcel that connects Gu	ymard Turnpike and Mountain
80.1	Rd.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-23.3	CAPURRO	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Partially wooded vacant parcel with a pond.	
28.2		

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-6.2	ZAHANG	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with one home on it. The access road to the	
9.5	Graham Mountain State Forest is in this parcel.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
16-1-6.1	CITIZENS UCI	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Mostly wooded parcel with a communication tower at one end and the	
3.8	forest access road at the other end.	



Project Area #7

Huckleberry Ridge State Forest to Gobbler's Knob State Forest

Project Area Description:

- The Long Path and the Shawangunk Ridge trail are currently co-aligned throughout this entire project area. It is important to note that our planned Orange County reroute of the Long Path will affect some of this co-alignment of these two trails. When the Long Path is rerouted along the Heritage Trail extension and through the Middletown Reservoir Trails, the Long Path will access the Shawangunk Ridge at the Graham Mountain State Forest. This state forest is 3.7 miles northeast of where the Long Path currently reaches the Shawangunk Ridge
- This unprotected area is 4.8 miles in length. All but 3/10 of a mile is owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad. Their ownership includes the abandoned Erie railbed and other excess railroad land. The NYNJTC owns 130 acres that is along both sides of the abandoned railbed. Also, the Graham Mountain State Forest is directly connected with the abandoned railbed.
- The Long Path Committee is confident that the planned Orange County relocation will occur. The Middletown Reservoir Trail and Graham Mountain State Forest are 3.4 miles apart following roads. The current route from The Heritage Trail in Wawayanda to the Huckleberry Ridge State Forest is 13.25 mile by road.

Action Needed:

The main focus is to continue working toward preserving the abandoned Erie Railroad railbed and excess railroad land. The abandoned railbed runs 4.5 miles from Guymard Turnpike to Route 211. In another mile, beyond the Long Path, it runs to Veteran's Memorial Park in the Village of Otisville.

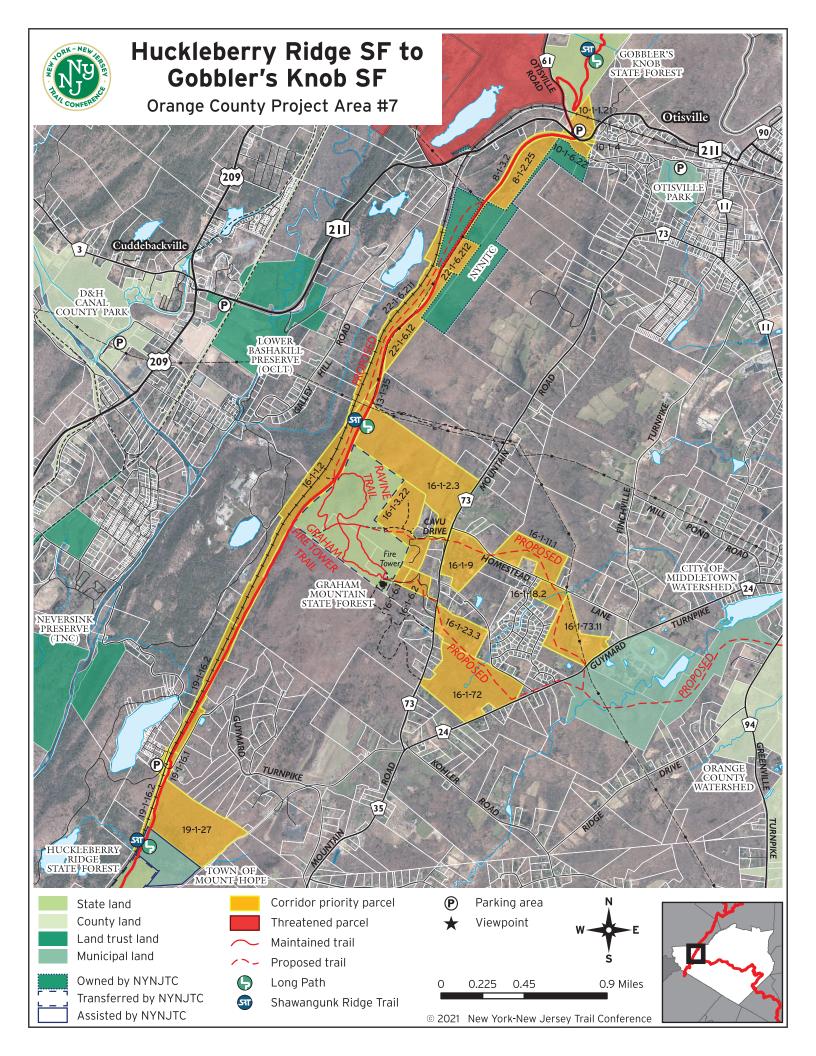
Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
19-1-27	INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST PROGRESS SOCIETY	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: A vacant wooded parcel on the western slope of the Shawangunk	
112.80	Ridge. This former Erie RR parcel was one on their wood lots.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
19-1-16.1,	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD	MOUNT HOPE,
19-1-16.2,		DEERPARK
16-1-1.2,		
13-1-35,		
22-1-6.211,		
22-1-6.212,		
8-1-3.2,		
10-1-4		
Acres:	Description: Formerly known as the Erie main line. The Long Path & Shawangunk	
5.50, 33.4,	Ridge Trail follow the abandoned Erie railbed for 4.2 miles from Guymard Turnpike	
71.6, 1.0, 49.9,	to Route 211. The active railbed parallels this old line at a lower elevation to the	
20.70, 12.1, 2.6	west. We are currently working to preserve the abandoned railbed and some of the	
	wooded mountainside between these two railbeds.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
8-1-2.25	DRAGON SPRINGS BUDDHIST, INC.	DEERPARK
Acres:	Description: A vacant wooded parcel on the western slope of the Shawangunk	
26.9	Ridge. The parcel is landlocked between the railbed and NYNJTC land.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
10-1-6.22	XU	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: Mostly steep sloped and wooded parcel directly next to the trail. A part	
4.5	of it could be used for trailhead parking if combined w	rith Mount Hope 10-1-4.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
10-1-1.21	NIETUBYC	MOUNT HOPE
Acres:	Description: This mountaintop parcel is mostly wooded. There is a home at the	
11.9	southwestern corner.	



Project Area #8

High Point State Park to Huckleberry Ridge State Forest

Project Area Description:

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail crosses into New York onto private land and remains on it until reaching the Greenville Turnpike

Action Needed:

• Secure further protection through this important connection between High Point State Park and Huckleberry Ridge State Forest.

Priority Parcels:

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
13-1-20.1	PENTACOSA LAND CORP. % STEVE KARVELLAS	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: On the eastern part of this parcel is a vacation destination known as	
503.20	Cedar Lakes Cottages. There are two lakes and numerous cabins and cottages. Most	
	of the parcel is forested with the SRT crossing the we	st side.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
13-1-52	KARVELLAS	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: Vacant and wooded. It connects the Cedar Lakes parcel with	
7.50	Greenville Turnpike.	

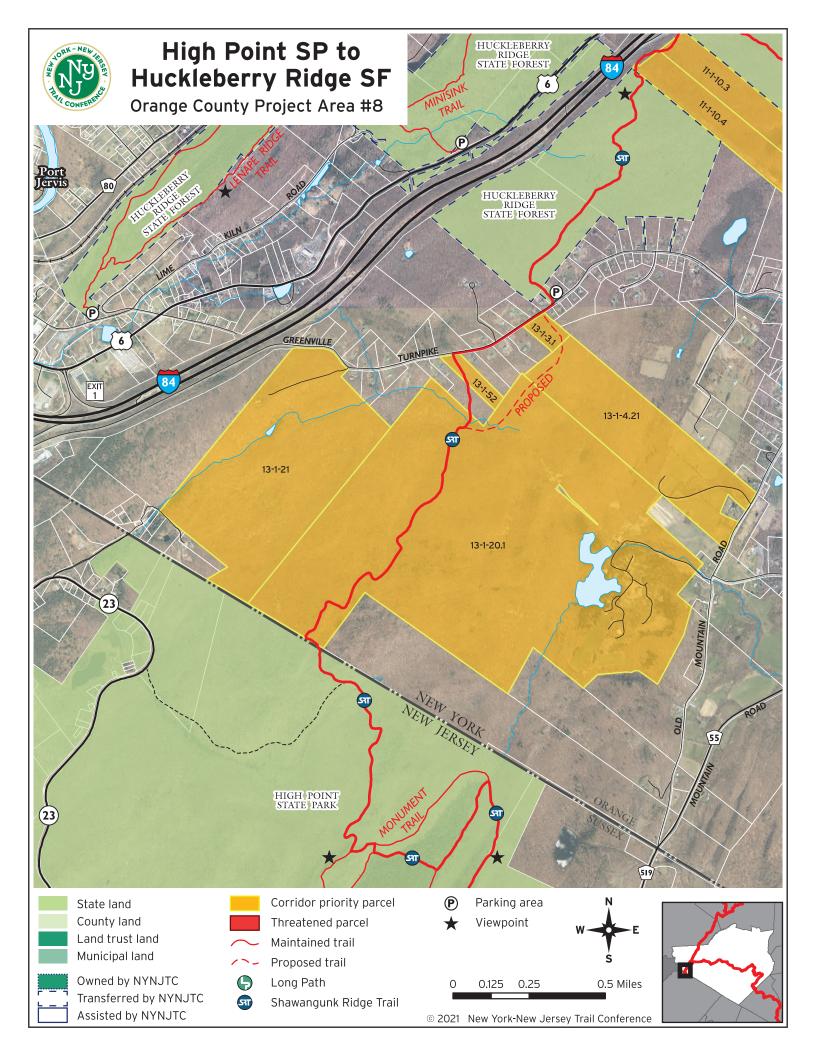
Off-Road Option

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
13-1-4.21	ZUBIKOWSKI	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: Has a house and small farm at the east end. The remainder is wooded,	
113.4	Orange County Land Trust holds a Conservation Easement on this parcel.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
13-1-3.1	CORTES	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: This parcel is on the Greenville Turnpike. It has a house on the	
113.4	southern portion and is wooded on the northern portion.	

Optional Connection between High Point State Park and Greenville Turnpike

Parcels: 13-1-21, 57-2-4	Landowner: TOMPOS	Municipality: GREENVILLE
Acres: 186.1, 74.5	Description: This parcel is split into two tax lots by th near the town line. Other than that, the parcel is wood	



Project Area #9

Huckleberry Ridge State Forest Connections

Project Area Description:

- This project area is complex and will be broken down into four separate sub-projects. While the creation of the Huckleberry Ridge State Forest (HRSF) is a great success on the southern Shawangunk Ridge, there is still more to do.
- Beyond Greenville Turnpike, the trail leaves HRSF and joins onto the I-84 right of way behind a highway rest area. The right of way for the interstate goes well into the woods. The trail passes along the border of two private parcels before entering another detached parcel of the HRSF.
- The Long Path reaches Old Mountain Road and follows it and Route 6 to an I-84 underpass. The trail follows these roads around a large vacant private parcel.
- Beyond I-84 the trail follows roads a short distance past Hathorn Lake. The SRT enters another area of the HRSF and then parallels the RR inside the woods to the abandoned portion of Shin Hollow Road and a New York-New Jersey Trail Conference parcel. Currently, the bridge over the railroad is closed, it is unsafe.
- The Trail Conference owns the parcel that is directly next to the closed overpass. Further up the closed roadway, NYNJTC, Open Space Conservancy, and the Orange County Land Trust are partners on an 89-acre parcel that is attached with both abandoned Shin Hollow Road and Mountain Road, a county highway.

Action Needed:

- HRSF to HRSF, near the I-84 rest area, is actually two long skinny parcels with homes at the far end from the trail; Preserving the back portion of each lot would allow for a permanent improvement for the trail. I-84 is a noisy and dangerous interstate.
- From HRSF to the I-84 underpass. Greenmount Associates own a 79-acre parcel that is attached to HRSF and Route 6 at the I-84 underpass. The owners will not allow the trail on their property. They are willing to sell, and preserving this parcel would enable the trail to be moved from the roads into the woods. The trail could meet Route 6 right at the I-84 underpass.
- From the I-84 overpass, the current \div mile roadwalk passes by Hathorn lake on the way to HRSF. The only option for improving this would be a land bridge further west over I-84. This would allow the wildlife and the hiking trail to avoid all of the roads and connect the protected land south of I-84 with the protected land north of I-84
- From HRSF to Abandoned Shin Hollow Road, preserving land east of the railway would provide a more secluded trail route. It also would enable routing the Shawangunk Ridge Trail past the lakes in the Ridgeview section of the Huckleberry Ridge State Forest

Priority Parcels:

Huckleberry Ridge State Forest Gap

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
11-1-10.4	BUNZA	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: Has a home on the western portion and is entirely wooded on the	
51.40	western portion. It is attached with the Huckleberry R	idge State Forest.

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
11-1-10.3	DOLLING	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: This parcel has a home on the western portion and is entirely wooded	
52.8	on the western portion. It is attached with the Huckle	perry Ridge State Forest.

Huckleberry Ridge State Forest to I-84 Underpass

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
8-1-38.1	GREENMOUNT ASSOCIATES	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: This mountain top parcel has expansive views across Orange County	
79.4	and nearby New Jersey. The vacant parcel is partially wooded with open fields. It is	
	connected with HRSF, I-84 and Route 6.	

Huckleberry Ridge State Forest to Abandoned Shin Hollow Road

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
50-1-4,	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD	DEERPARK
28-1-15		
Acres:	Description: The active RR crosses these parcels. There is excess forested land that	
17.6, 25	is west of the RR tracks, service road and ditch line. There is sufficient room for a	
	trail easement safely away from the active RR.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
50-1-6	SPANO	DEERPARK
Acres: 5.8	Description: This wooded parcel is between the RR la belongs to the owners that is in the Town of Greenvill Greenville.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
50-1-5	KING	DEERPARK
Acres:	Description: This wooded parcel is between the RR land and other land that	
23.6	belongs to the owner that is in the Town of Greenville. He owns continuous land in	
	Greenville.	

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
38-1-102.1,	VICARETTI	DEERPARK,
4-1-50		GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: This parcel has the Greenville/Deerpark Town line running through it,	
20.8, 17.6	resulting in it having two parcel numbers. The parcel is mostly vacant and wooded	
	with a small seasonal hunting cabin. It is attached with the Ridgeview HRSF parcel, a	
	NYNJTC parcel and abandoned Shin Hollow Road.	

Current Route of Coaligned Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
38-1-103	NEVERSINK ACRES LLC	DEERPARK
Acres: 129.10	Description: This parcel is separated by the RR. Most RR. A wooded parcel between abandoned Shin hollow parcel of interest for the trail.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
38-1-16.2	SCHOCK	DEERPARK
Acres:	Description: A vacant wooded parcel between abandoned Shin Hollow Road and	
3.50	the active RR.	

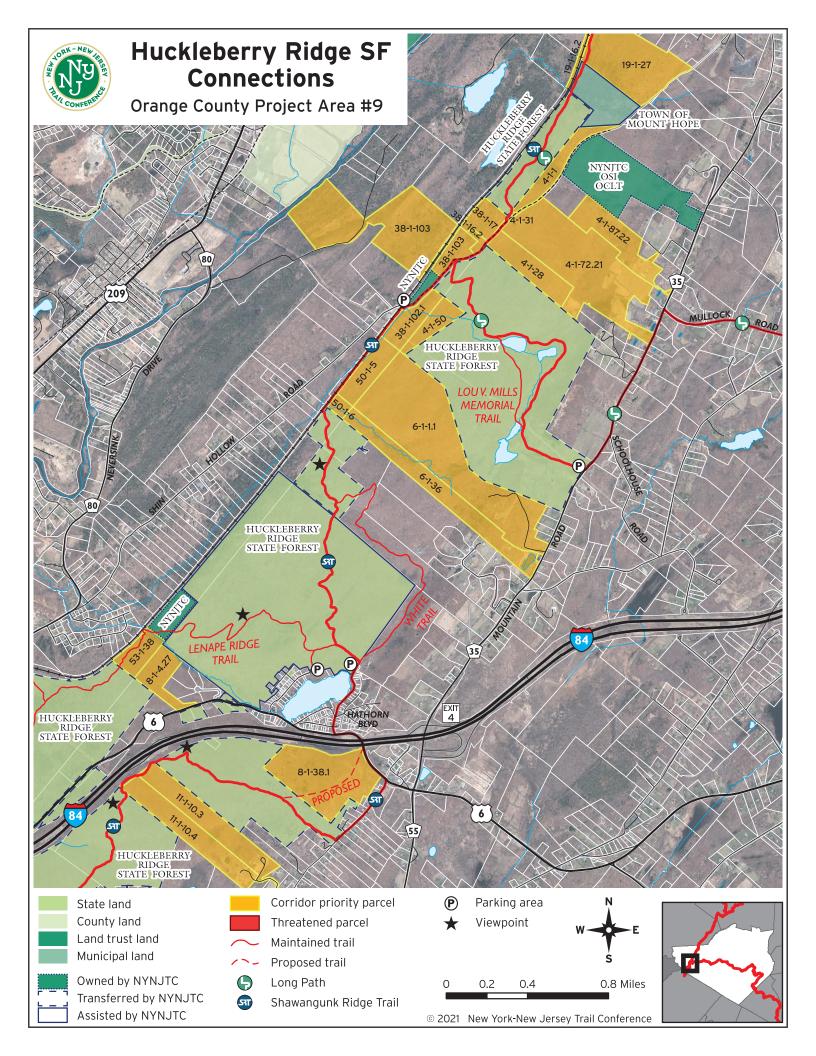
Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
38-1-17,	UNITED SPORTSMAN HUNTING CLUB	DEERPARK,
4-1-31		GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: Two vacant wooded parcels between abandoned Shin hollow Road and	
15, 1.2	the active RR	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
4-1-1	PAVLICK & STEMPERT	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: This wooded parcel is located along abandoned Shin Hollow Road and	
26.10	the most northern detached parcel of the HRSF.	

Ridge Option

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
4-1-28,	PANTEL	DEERPARK
4-1-72.21		
Acres:	Description: These two wooded parcels are on the western slope of the ridge. They	
32.60, 15	attached with Ridgeview section of the HRSF and abandoned Shin Hollow Road	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
4-1-87.22	PAVLICK & STEMPERT	GREENVILLE
Acres:	Description: This wooded parcel is located on the western slope of the Shawangunk	
41.7	Ridge. It is connected with an 89-acre parcel that was preserved by New York - New	
	Jersey Trail Conference, Open Space Institute & Orange County Land Trust.	





Protection Overview:

There are 2 Project Areas within Sullivan County. Further protection in both project areas will completely protect the Long Path and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in Sullivan County, which run for **16.5** miles through the county. Currently, there is a preserved trail corridor through both project areas.

- Within **Project Area 1**, the Long Path passes very close to Route 17. Moving the trail away from the highway would be a significant improvement, and additional land protection would expand the protected corridor.
- The existing corridor for the Long Path within **Project Area 2** is very narrow as it approaches Ferguson Road. Protecting more land near Ferguson Road will shield the trail from further development within Sullivan County.

History:

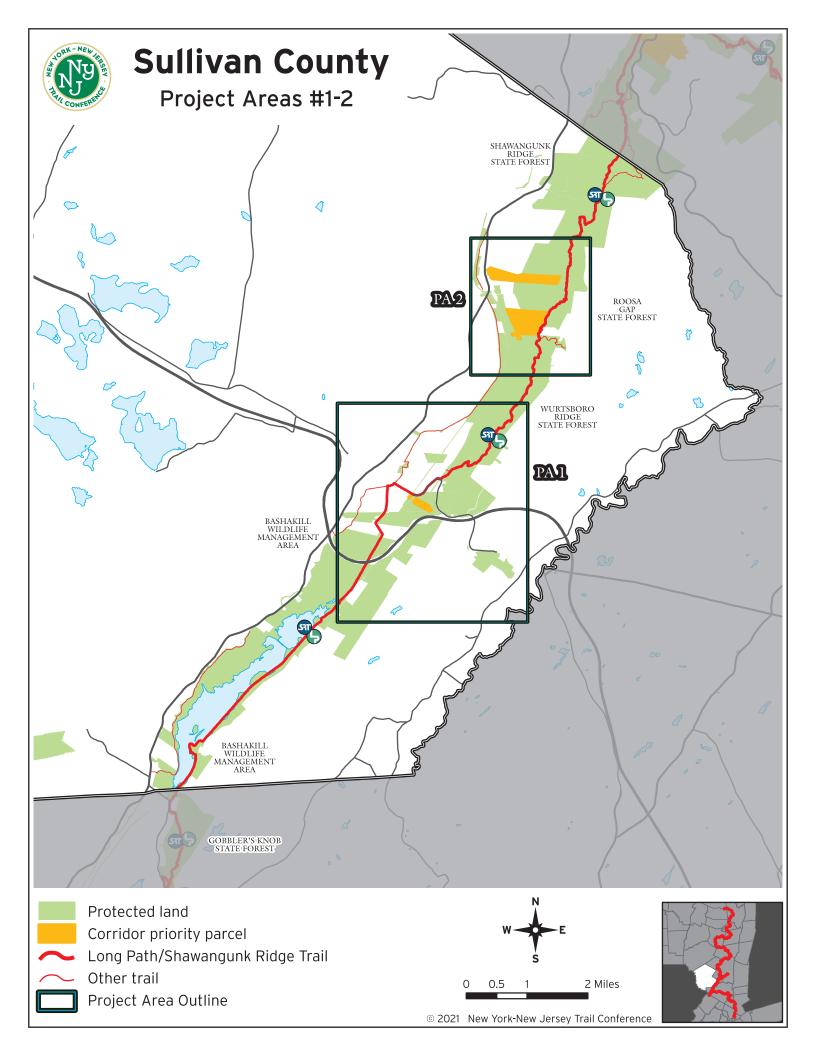
The Long Path was relocated into Sullivan County 35 years after Robert Jessen first brought the trail concept to the Trail Conference as a potential project. In 1960, the Long Path was re-imagined as a marked trail, and planning and construction began at this time. During this time of planning, the trail passed west through Orange County and then into Ulster County, where it ascended the Shawangunk Ridge. Through all these years, the Long Path was never settled in one place within Orange County.

In 1992 and 1993, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) was built. In 1995, the Long Path was relocated within Orange County, and this new alignment brought the Long Path into Sullivan County. Here it continued along local roads, ultimately reaching Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest, created in 1988, where it joined with the Long Path.

The SRT entered Sullivan County at the south end of the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, protected in 1972. In 1995, the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest, and a 160-acre detached state forest parcel were the only protected lands along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail corridor within Sullivan County.

In 2012, the Long Path was again relocated through Orange County. Today, the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail are coaligned as they enter Sullivan County at the southern end of the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. There remains one section where the trail currently follows local roads for 1.9 miles. As of 2021, the gap between Bashakill Wildlife Management Area and the Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest has been protected. This represents a 20-year effort to preserve a connected corridor through this gap. which has now created a protected trail corridor 16.5 miles through the entire Town of Mamakating in Sullivan County. The Trail Conference is now working to move the trail off the roads permanently and onto this preserved land.

As of the end of 2021, there are 6,746 preserved acres within the Long Path corridor stretching from the Orange County line to the Ulster County Line. This land is owned by New York State (5,723 acres), Sullivan County (118 acres), Town of Mamakating (50 acres), Open Space Institute (704 acres) and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (151 acres). These interconnected lands connect the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area with three state forests, Sullivan County's D&H Canal Path & Park, and the Town of Mamakating O&W Rail Trail.



Project Area #1

Bashakill Wildlife Management Area to Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest

Project Area Description:

- A completely protected trail corridor now exists within this Project Area, *However*, currently, the coaligned Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge follows roads for 1.9 miles around the protected area.
- First, approvals and funding need to be secured for bridge construction. Then, the trail will be relocated into the recently protected trail corridor.

Action Needed:

- Approvals are needed, as well as funding to construct a bridge over the Basha Kill (a stream at this location where the planned crossing is located). Following the old dirt turnpike through Storybook property is the preferred route. Preserving a portion of the Stonybrook parcel would provide a trail route away from Route 17.
- The Bracci parcels form a gap in the Mamakating Rail trail which would make a great connector to the village if preserved.

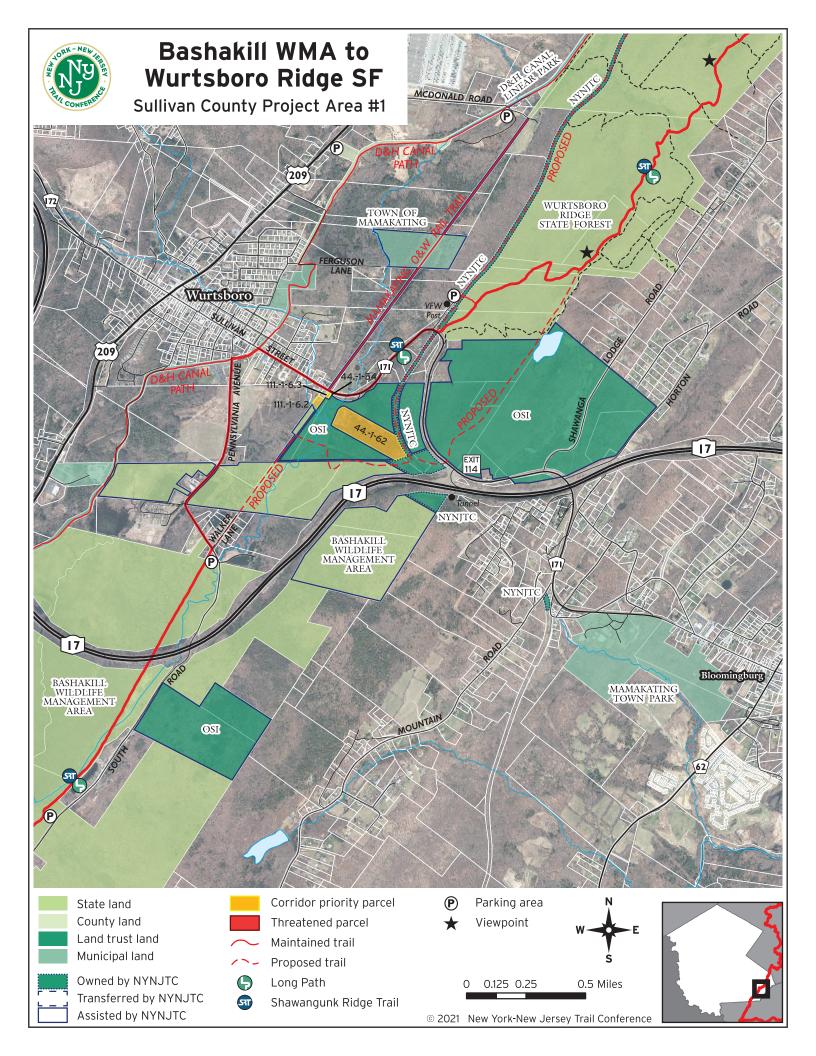
Priority Parcels:

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
441-62	STORYBROOK PROPERTIES BBP LLC	MAMAKATING
Acres:	Description: This property is a doughnut hole within already preserved land. There	
16.52	are eight small cottages on one acre at the north end. The rest of the 15+ acres	
	climb steeply up the mountain. There is an old turnpike (dirt) that crosses the south	
	end of this parcel. It would make a great route for the trail.	

O&W Rail Trail

Parcel: 1111-6.2	Landowner: BRACCI -ONE SULLIVAN STREET ASSOCIATES LLC	Municipality: WURTSBORO
Acres: 0.84	Description: This vacant lot is part of the abandoned the road and behind another a rail parcel that contain There is a deeded right of way from this parcel throughout.	s the former rail station.

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
1111-7,	BRACCI FAMILY CORPORATION	WURTSBORO,
441-54		MAMAKATING
Acres:	Description: This property is continuous with the above property. It is also	
0.15, 0.07	connected with the Open Space Institutes property.	



Project Area #2

Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest to Roosa Gap State Forest

Project Area Description:

- While the Long Path trail corridor is protected in this Project Area, the protected corridor is very narrow as it approaches Ferguson Road. The protected trail crossing is bordered by private land to the western border both before and after crossing the road.
- The Abada parcel has a waterfall that should be included on the proposed connector trail to the D&H Canal Path in the valley.

Action Needed:

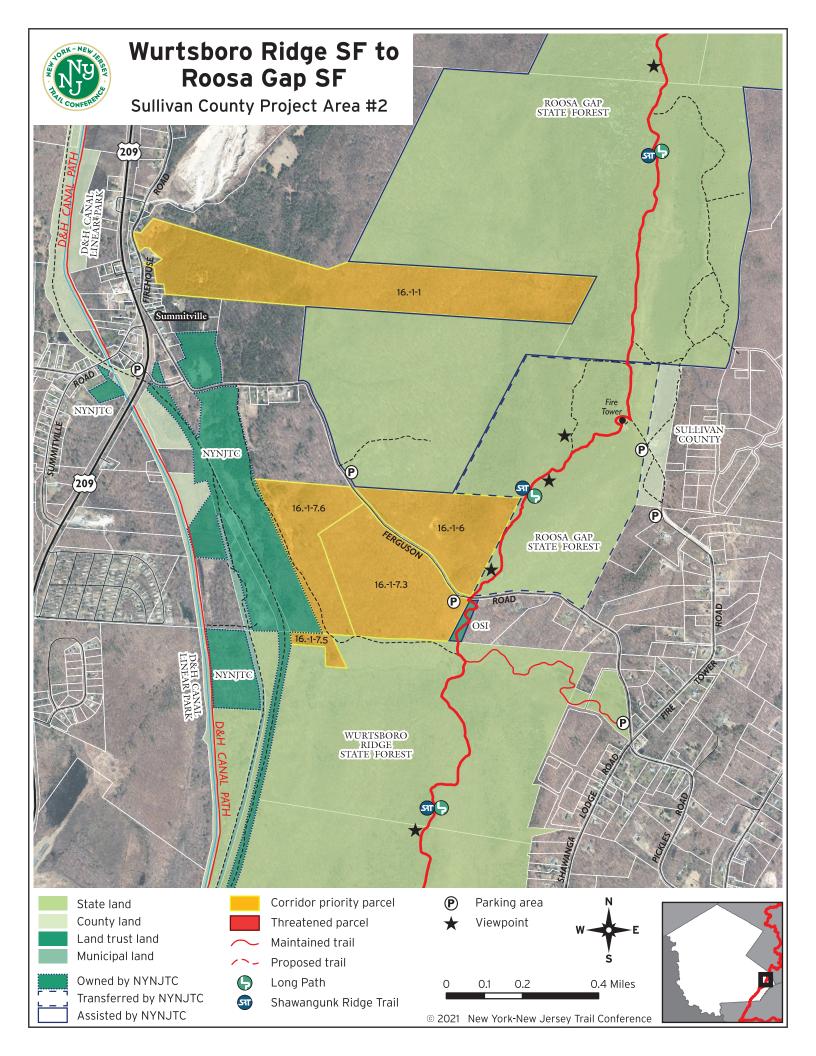
- To fully protect the trail corridor, the Tuxedo Sportsman's and Drobecker parcels, or a portion of those properties, need to be permanently protected.
- The last two parcels have no impact on the LP/SRT corridor. The Abada parcel improves a proposed connector trail. The Maybrook Materials parcel would be a substantial viewshed improvement.

Parcels:	Landowner:	Municipality:
161-7.3,	TUXEDO SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC	MAMAKATING
161-7.6		
Acres:	Description: The eastern boundary of this parcel is directly next to the Long Path	
55.06, 34.19	and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. The protected trail corridor here is rather skinny.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
161-6	DROBECKER	MAMAKATING
Acres: 39.2	Description: The eastern boundary of this parcel is directly next to the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. The trail is on a razor edge cliff at this location, it's a nice feature.	

Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
161-7.5	ABADA	MAMAKATING
Acres:	Description: This property has a waterfall and a wood road that runs through it.	
3.75	This would make building a connector trail much easie	er.

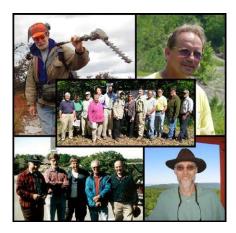
Parcel:	Landowner:	Municipality:
161-1	MAYBROOK MATERIALS	MAMAKATING
Acres:	Description: The eastern portion of this parcel is bordered by the Roosa Gap State	
103.91	Forest, on three sides. The eastern portion reaches high up on the ridge while the	
	western portion reaches the street in the valley.	



Acknowledgements

The creation of a greenway corridor, perhaps above all else, requires dedicated people working together for a common conservation cause. Over the past several decades, land protection progress along the Long Path has been the result of Trail Conference volunteers and staff working closely with land trust partners, New York State park partners, local community members, and landowners themselves. The photos to the right show just a few of the people who have played instrumental roles in creating protected corridors for the Long Path, especially along the Shawangunk Ridge.

This Long Path Protection Plan has come together thanks to several dedicated individuals. The following two volunteers deserve special recognition for their contributions:



Andy Garrison, for his long-time dedication to the Long Path both on the physical trail and behind-thescenes. His step-by-step knowledge of the entire Long Path and ability to plot out potential corridors has been instrumental to preparing each of the project areas in this plan and the overall vision for protecting the Long Path.

Nick Boyle, for working closely with Andy to develop the structure of this plan, and also helping to organize and edit the descriptions and parcel info for each of the counties and project areas.

Thanks also to contributed photos from Steve Aaron, Daniel Chazin, Jakob Franke, Alex McClain, and other volunteers, and text about the importance of conserving corridors from **Cory Tiger**.

Our land protection efforts and the development of this Plan would also not have been possible without large amounts of funding support.

- The Long Path Protection Plan was supported with funding from the **New York State** Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Additional funding for this Plan came from the Trail Conference's donor-supported Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF).

We hope this Long Path Protection Plan will also inspire more people to join this cause to protect the important lands throughout our region.

Happy Trails!

Jeremy Apgar Cartographer New York-New Jersey Trail Conference